



FIRE & EMS NEWS

October 20, 2010

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

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

SPRING 2011 FIRE TECHNOLOGY SCHEDULE

Registration for the Spring 2011 semester is as follows:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

THE WHITE HOUSE - Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release October 1, 2010

FIRE PREVENTION WEEK, 2010

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA - A PROCLAMATION

During Fire Prevention Week, we reaffirm the importance of fire safety and awareness, and we pay tribute to our firefighters, volunteers, and first responders who put themselves in harm's way to protect our lives, homes, and communities every day. Each of us can take precautions in our homes to safeguard our loved ones from the hazards of fire. Smoke alarms are vital detection devices, and properly installing and maintaining them in the home can help keep our families safe. Residential sprinkler systems can give individuals extra time to evacuate a home safely in case of an emergency as well. This year's theme, "Smoke Alarms: A sound you can live with," encourages all Americans to test alarms at least once a month, and to check their batteries and locations.

Parents and caregivers should also take the time to discuss and practice emergency plans with children in the event of a fire. Additionally, around the home, it is important to ensure electronic appliances, machines, and heating units are plugged in and operated properly. With responsible use of fire indoors and outdoors -- from safely disposing of matches and cigarettes to increased attention when cooking on grills or building a campfire -- we can avoid untold numbers of emergencies, injuries, and lives lost to fire and its consequences. Fire Prevention Week also calls our attention to the lifesaving work our firefighters perform in communities across America. These courageous professionals are the first ones on the scene during an emergency, fearlessly charging up smoke-filled staircases as people rush down them. Some have paid the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty. Our Nation is profoundly grateful for the dedication and tireless efforts of our firefighters and first responders in their selfless service to our communities. I encourage all Americans to take preventative measures during Fire Prevention Week to protect themselves, their families, and their communities from the hazards of fire and to express gratitude to our firefighters and first responders. Together, we can ensure the resilience and safety of our neighborhoods, and aid the brave men and women who risk their lives every day to protect us.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BARACK OBAMA, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim October 3 through October 9, 2010, as Fire Prevention Week. On Sunday, October 3, 2010, in accordance with Public Law 107-51, the flag of the United States will be flown at half-staff on all Federal office buildings in honor of the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Service. I call on all Americans to participate in this observance with appropriate programs and activities and by renewing their efforts to prevent fires and their tragic consequences. IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this first day of October, in the year of our Lord two thousand ten, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-fifth.

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www.chabotfire.com

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FIRE SERVICE TRAINING OPPORTUNITY:

Registration for the 2010 Fresno Training Officers Symposium is now open!!!

- The Fresno Symposium is being co-sponsored by the Northern California Training Officers Association and the Southern California Training Officers Associations.
- This year's [Fresno Training Officers Symposium](http://register.calchiefs.org) will be held **Monday November 15, 2010** through **Friday November 19, 2010** in Fresno, California!

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

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

- Auto Extrication - *(CSFM certificate class)*
- Low Angle Rope Rescue - *(CSFM certificate class)*
- Trench Rescue – PILOT COURSE *(CSFM certificate class)*
- Fire Command 2E - *(CSFM certificate class)*
- Driver/Operator 1A - *(CSFM certificate class)*
- Chief Officer Leadership Symposium
- Company Officer Development Academy
- Firefighter Survival
- S-270 (Basic Air Operations)
- S-330 (Strike Team Leader)
- Training Officer Development
- Truck Academy – Commercial Ventilation Practices
- Truck Academy – RIC Operations
- Truck Academy – Forcible Entry Operations
- Tower Rescue
- Bringing Leadership to the Forefront; it's not all about firefighting
- Reading Smoke the Art of First Due
- Regional Instructor Orientation - *(CSFM certificate class)*
- Ethical Leadership in the Classroom - *(CSFM certificate class)*
- Line of Duty Death
- Thermal Imaging Camera Awareness
- Real Leadership is not for Wimps!
- Mission Focused Command Operations
- SIZE-Up Matters
- Mastering the Fire Service Assessment Center
- The Lost Art of Hose Operations
- Maximize the Use of Your Strike Team
- Conflict Resolution

- Prevention Command Dysfunction
- Fitness for Firefighters
- CSFM Alternate Fuel Vehicles
- CSFM Fire Control 3A-3B Program Update
- Building Construction for Today's Fire Service.
- Mental Management of Emergency/50 ways to kill your firefighter
- Training Mandates
- CSFM RIC Command & Control
- Read and React Calling the Mayday
- Calm the Chaos! Secrets to Mastering Fireground Command
- Keep the Change
- Self Leadership Taking Control
- Fireground Search Operations for Big Box, Multi-Story Occupancies
- How to Train & Motivate the Adult Learner
- Fire Officer Survival
- Functional Training
- The Fire line Mind
- Fire Ground Operations for Buildings Equipped with Photovoltaic Operations
- Elevator Rescue
- Training Officers Forum
- Mountain Meteorology & the Effect on Wildland Fires: Why the Weather Portion of S290 Matters
- Measuring Fire Department Operations
- And many more - see the website for more details.

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

USFA Releases Smoking-Related Fires in Residential Buildings Report

September 23, 2010

USFA Media Contact: (301) 447-1853

Washington, DC—The Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) United States Fire Administration (USFA) issued a special report today examining the characteristics of smoking-related fires in residential buildings. The report, *Smoking-Related Fires in Residential Buildings*, was developed by USFA's National Fire Data Center. The report is part of the Topical Fire Report Series and is based on 2006 to 2008 data from the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS). According to the report, an estimated 9,000 smoking-related fires in residential buildings occur annually in the United States, resulting in an estimated average of 450 deaths, 1,025 injuries, and \$303 million in property loss.

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While smoking-related fires account for 2 percent of all residential building fires, they are the leading cause of fire deaths, accounting for 17 percent of fire deaths in residential buildings. In addition, cigarettes are, by far, the leading type of smoking material involved in residential smoking fires and account for 87 percent of these fires. Finally, residential building smoking-related fires peak in the afternoon and early evening between 2 and 7 p.m. This 5-hour period accounts for 27 percent of all residential building smoking-related fires, however, the smoking fires that occur in the late evening and early morning tend to be the most deadly.

The complete *Smoking-Related Fires in Residential Buildings* topical report is available at www.usfa.fema.gov/statistics/reports/.

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

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

FIRE SERVICE TRAINING OPPORTUNITY:

Fire Nuggets.com

PRESENTS

Battalion Chief Ted Corporandy
San Francisco Fire Department (ret)

“Ventilation, Ladder Company Operations, and Other Considerations”

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

LOCATION - COST - DATE and TIME

Courtyard by Marriott Fairfield \$65 Friday, December 3, 2010
1350 Holiday Lane 0900-1600 hours
Fairfield, CA 94534

Ted Corporandy is a 36-year veteran of the fire service who held the rank of Battalion Chief with the San Francisco Fire Department. His experience includes wildland as well as structural firefighting. He began his career in 1970 with the U.S. Forest Service serving as a smokejumper, helitack crewman, and engine crewman. As a member of the SFFD, he served on various committees including Co-Chair of the Mutual Aid Committee and Chairman of the High Rise Committee. He is a California State Certified Fire Instructor, and a Chief Officer level instructor for High Rise Operations and Multi-Alarm incidents. He holds an Associate Degree in Fire Science from San Francisco City College, and was a member of the adjunct faculty at College of the Siskiyous Fire Academy for 15 years. He was a presenter at Fire Rescue West San Jose, FDIC West Sacramento, Firehouse World San Diego, Boise Fire Symposium, and the Denver Professional Development Series. He has written manuals, training bulletins, periodicals, and was a contributor to American Fire Journal Magazine. He is a member of the National Fire Academy Alumni Association, the National Smokejumper Association and is co-publisher of Firenuggets.com.

Registration cost includes handouts, lunch and certificate.

Go to www.firenuggets.com for registration and more detailed information.

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



Smoke alarms are a very important means of preventing home fire fatalities by providing an early warning signal so you and your family can escape. According to the U.S. Fire Administration (USFA), an estimated 385,500 fires occur in residential buildings every year resulting in 2,770 civilian deaths and 13,250 injuries. When a smoke alarm sounds, it is time for you to spring into action.

You can prevent tragedy simply by testing and maintaining your smoke alarms and practicing a fire escape plan. Make sure your home fire escape plan is up to date and everyone in the home knows what to do when the smoke alarm sounds. Practice your plan often.

The theme for this year's [Fire Prevention Week](#), October 3 – 9, is **Smoke Alarms: A Sound You Can Live With.**

Visit the USFA's [Focus on Fire Safety web page](#) to watch an educational video on smoke alarms and to test your smoke alarm knowledge through an interactive quiz. You will also find links to valuable fire prevention resources available from USFA.

FIRE SERVICE TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES:

National Fire Academy Second Semester Application Period Opens October 15!

The application period for the second semester of National Fire Academy resident classes opens October 15. The application period closes December 15. Second semester includes those classes scheduled from April 1 – September 30, 2011. All information about courses, applications and suggestions for successful completion of the application can be found at the following sites:

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

Download Application:

[FEMA Form 119-25-1, General Admissions Application](#) (formerly FEMA Form 75-5) (PDF, 629 Kb) Use this application if your course code begins with the following letters: R, N, O, P, or T.

Tips to completing your application:

[Eight Tips for Completing a Successful NFA Application](#) (PDF, 332 Kb)

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

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

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

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

ENTRY LEVEL FIREFIGHTING COACHING:

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

The entry level private coaching session will prepare you for your interview by identifying areas for improvement, assisting you in implementing your changes and fine tuning your presentation.

The 2 hour session will include:

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

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

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

Cost: \$150.00
Payment in cash or check only

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

FIRE SERVICE TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES:

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

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

Firehouse World – *San Diego, CA* - February 26 through March 2, 2011
Go to www.firehouseworld.com for more information.

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

Firehouse Expo – *Baltimore, MD* - July 19 through 23, 2011
Go to www.firehouseexpo.com for more information.

Fire Rescue International – *Atlanta, GA* - August 23 through 27, 2011
Go to www.iafc.org/fri for more information.

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

USFA and the International Association of Fire Fighters Release Study on Fire Service Respiratory Diseases

USFA Media Contact: (301) 447-1853 - September 15, 2010

Emmitsburg, MD — The United States Fire Administration (USFA), in partnership with the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF), announces the release of *Respiratory Diseases and the Fire Service*, a report discussing the findings of a long-term study intended to examine and improve the occupational health of firefighters. "USFA is committed to enhancing the occupational health and safety of America's fire service," said Acting U.S. Fire Administrator Glenn Gaines. "The purpose of this initiative is to provide information to the fire service on the mitigation of the long-term effects of occupational respiratory exposure."

"Respiratory diseases remain a significant health issue for firefighters and other emergency responders," said IAFF General President Harold A. Schaitberger. "Respiratory effects due to firefighter occupational exposure are a concern affecting the fire service throughout the United States." The goal of this project was to research the long-term effects and post-exposure mitigation of occupational respiratory exposure to firefighters and develop a report based on this research. This effort involved renowned experts in the field of pulmonary medicine. The study will assist in recognizing and quantifying the impact of respiratory exposure, and the development of mitigation strategies and programs for firefighters, their families, and fire departments.

Respiratory Diseases and the Fire Service is available from the [IAFF website](#) (PDF, 6.1 Mb).

Further information on USFA's firefighter health and safety projects may be found on the [USFA website](#).

FIRE SERVICE TRAINING OPPORTUNITY:

Emergency Medical Technician I

Citrus Heights ~ January 4 - March 5, 2011

\$495.00

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

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

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

USFA Releases Annual Report on Firefighter Fatalities in the United States

USFA Media Contact: (301) 447-1853 - September 29, 2010

Emmitsburg, MD – The United States Fire Administration (USFA) today released the report [Firefighter Fatalities in the United States in 2009](#) (PDF, 2.7 Mb). The report continues a series of annual studies by the USFA of on-duty firefighter fatalities. The USFA is the single public agency source of information for all on-duty firefighter fatalities in the United States each year. Ninety on-duty firefighters from 33 states lost their lives as the result of incidents that occurred in 2009. Pennsylvania experienced the highest number of fatalities (8). In addition to Pennsylvania, only New York (7), North Carolina (6), Louisiana (5), and Texas (5), respectively, had five or more firefighter fatalities. This compares favorably to 2008's firefighter losses where 9 states experienced 5 or more on-duty fatalities. The total number of fatalities in 2009 was one of the lowest totals in more than 30 years of record.

"Over the past ten years alone, the trend shows a 14 percent reduction in on-duty firefighter fatalities but we must continue every effort to be sure that when it comes to firefighter health and safety, everyone goes home," Acting United States Fire Administrator Glenn Gaines said. The unique and specific objective of *Firefighter Fatalities in the United States* is to identify all on-duty firefighter fatalities that occurred in the United States and its protectorates during the calendar year and to present in summary narrative form the circumstances surrounding each occurrence.

An overview of the 90 firefighters that died while on duty in 2009:

- The total break down included 47 volunteer, 36 career, and 7 wildland agency firefighters.
- There were 6 firefighter fatality incidents where 2 or more firefighters were killed, claiming a total of 13 firefighters' lives.
- 16 firefighters died in duties associated with wildland fires, compared to 26 such fatalities in 2008.
- Activities related to emergency incidents resulted in the deaths of 57 firefighters.
- 30 firefighters died while engaging in activities at the scene of a fire.
- 15 firefighters died while responding to or returning from 13 emergency incidents in 2009. This compares to 24 responding/returning fatalities in 2008.
- 10 firefighters died while they were engaged in training activities.
- 14 firefighters died after the conclusion of their on-duty activity.

- Heart attacks were the most frequent cause of death with 39 firefighter deaths.

For 33 years, USFA has tracked the number of firefighter fatalities and conducted an annual analysis. Through the collection of information on the causes of firefighter deaths, the USFA is able to focus on specific problems and direct efforts toward finding solutions to reduce the number of firefighter fatalities in the future. This information is also used by many organizations to measure the effectiveness of their current efforts directed toward firefighter health and safety. The National Fallen Firefighters Foundation, which worked closely with USFA on this report, also maintains a list of firefighters who die in the line-of-duty and are honored during the annual National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Weekend held each October in Emmitsburg, Maryland. Visit www.FireHero.org for more information about the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation and their assistance to the families of the firefighters lost in 2009 and beyond.

Year-to-date monthly and annual USFA firefighter fatality reports are posted on the [USFA's website](#).

FIREFIGHTER EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES:

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

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

- www.firerecruit.com

- www.firecareers.com

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

FIRE SERVICE INFORMATION FROM THE EVERYONE GOES HOME FOUNDATION:



www.EveryoneGoesHome.com

EVERYONE GOES HOME®

FIREFIGHTER LIFE SAFETY INITIATIVES

[Advocate Outreach Program Overview](#)

September 2010
E-Newsletter

As part of the ongoing efforts of the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation and the Everyone Goes Home® program, the Advocate Outreach Program (AOP) was developed. The purpose of the AOP is to reduce the number of line-of-duty deaths that occur across the country each year. By meeting directly with chief officers, senior staff, and firefighters about firefighter life safety issues we can introduce and/or discuss the Everyone Goes Home® program and its resources.

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



[16 Life Safety Initiatives - Is Your Fire Department Trained?](#)

A routine call, but this time tragedy strikes and a firefighter is killed in the line of duty. It happened 90 times in the United States in 2009 and already 52 times in 2010, according to the most recent statistics provided by the U.S. Fire Administration.

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

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.

[A Look at Initiative #9](#)

The fire service has changed radically over the last 30 years and continues to do so at a rapid pace...but why? We've done a great job over those years, so why do we have to keep changing things? Well, the fact is that nationally the number of fires and the amount of damage caused by those fires has continued to increase. This can be expected as a consequence of national growth, however, the true reason for change? It's all about the heartbeat. It's all about the lives of the citizens we serve as well as our own.

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



More September 2010 Articles:

- [Surviving Your Career](#)
- [The Dangers of Wind-Driven Residential Fires](#)
- [NFFF & Vision 20-20 Need Your Help - Take a Risk Reduction Survey](#)

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

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

» For More Information Visit: www.everyonegoeshome.com

FIRE SERVICE INFORMATION FROM THE NATIONAL FIREFIGHTERS FOUNDATION:



ONE GREAT CAUSE

NATIONAL FIREFIGHTERS FOUNDATION

NATIONAL FIREFIGHTERS FOUNDATION DAYTONA

DAYTONA 500

One Great Race

Join your fellow firefighters for racing and hospitality at the DAYTONA 500 and support a great cause! Daytona International Speedway and the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation have united to raise funds for families of fallen firefighters.

This exclusive package includes:

- Allison Tower Seat (2/20/2011)
- Admission to the Star & Shield Fire Station 500 hospitality area that will include food, soda, water and unlimited beer
- Donation to the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation
- Commemorative event t-shirt

All for only \$119!

[CLICK HERE TO PURCHASE](#) Or call 877-306-RACE

DAYTONA SPEEDWEEKS

AMERICAN SPRINT

STAR & SHIELD INSURANCE EXCHANGE

Pierce WATEROUS MOTOROLA ARCTIC EASE AMEUS

Offers expire 2/18/11 and are subject to availability. All sales are final. No refunds or exchanges. Offer may not be combined with other discounts or promotions.

FIRE SERVICE TRAINING OPPORTUNITY:

CISM - Group Crisis Intervention
Rancho Cordova ~ October 28-29, 2010
\$150.00

This program is designed to present the core elements of a comprehensive, systematic and multi-component crisis intervention curriculum. The Group Crisis Intervention course will prepare participants to understand a wide range of crisis intervention services.

Registration includes certificate of completion from CFRTA, International Critical Incident Stress Foundation, Inc. certification, and student materials.

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

FIRE SERVICE TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES:

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

Seminar #1:

Thursday, February 10, 2011

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

- Presented by Chief Richard Gasaway, Phd.

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

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

And

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

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

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

For details on this seminar, go to:

http://www.firenuggets.com/seminarbaypro11_gasaway.pdf

Seminar #2: Thursday, April 14, 2011

“Fireground Strategies” A Two Part Program

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

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

Part 2: Incident Command, Fireground Organization & Size-Up This presentation will address the fireground experience from arrival through termination, including safety and the rules of engagement, the most critical size-up factors, command structure, strategy selection and modification, ongoing fireground operations such as decentralizing the fireground, progress reports, and a comprehensive look at post-control activities. Identify areas where weakness in command and organizational structure cause a breakdown in operations and safety. Learn how to bring the incident command system down to the street level, making for a safer and more effective fireground. Awareness and vigilance are the first steps toward a safer fire service. Students will identify activities counter to the safe execution of the incident

action plan and learn that the weight of the "Everyone goes home" philosophy is on their shoulders and is a responsibility they cannot take lightly.

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

Seminar #3: Thursday, October 20, 2011

Mastering Fireground Command – Calming The Chaos

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

The NIOSH top 5 line of duty death (LODD) operational causes on the fireground surround size-up, command, communications, accountability, and SOP's. This intense, hands-on and interactive workshop hits these issues head on and will streamline the components of strategy & tactics, SOP's and ICS. We synthesize these three key ingredients to help you drastically improve the way you command your next incident or handle your upcoming assessment center! Don't believe the lie that you cannot prepare for the test AND the job at the same time. The military, airlines, and NASA do it, and it's about time the Fire Service did! We will conduct extensive incident reviews, including actual video and audio of commercial structure, apartment, residential, wildland, fatal fires and saves. Participate in simulations for house fires, garden/center hall apartments, and commercial fire incidents to get answers to the following questions...

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

For details on this seminar, go to:

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

Seminar #4: Thursday December 8, 2011

Strategic and Tactical Air Management for the Fireground

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

The Point of NO Return is a dynamic, cutting edge presentation that is transforming the way the national fire service views Air Management, Tactical safety and Firefighter survival. This fast moving workshop utilizes dramatic audio/video, stimulating discussions, and everyday scenarios to create a synergistic learning experience where the students lead, as well as

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learn. At the center of the class are The Need, The Mandate, and The Solution. Each area will be covered in detail and gives the students practical information, along with drills, to take back to their departments. Among the topics covered are:

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

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

For details on this seminar, go to:

http://www.firenuggets.com/seminarbaypro11_gagliano.pdf

ALL FOUR 2009 SEMINARS:

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

For details on this four-seminar option, go to

<http://www.firenuggets.com/seminarbaypro11.pdf>

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

Carr Convention Center
4400 Rosewood Drive
Pleasanton, CA 94588

EMS VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES AROUND THE BAY AREA:

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

- Advanced Medical Life Support Classes: Volunteers Needed

Dates / Locations / Times:	<p>- Thursday November 11, 2010 from 1230 to 1700 hours (<u>San Francisco, CA</u>) - Friday November 12, 2010 from 1030 to 1700 hours (<u>San Francisco, CA</u>)</p> <p>**Go to their website: www.sfparamedics.org & click on Volunteer Info (under About) to confirm the above dates & times and to register as a volunteer.</p>
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You will receive:	Valuable experience watching paramedic level (or higher) students perform patient assessments. Learn from their plusses and minuses. You will also receive a free San Francisco Paramedic Association t-shirt.
Your role:	As a volunteer, you will be moulaged and designated to role-play a victim of a medical emergency scenario. Please wear loose, old, comfortable clothing, as you may be on the floor for some scenarios.
To register / More information:	Call the San Francisco Paramedic Association for more information at (415) 543-1161 (tell them Steve at Chabot sent you) or visit their website section on volunteer opportunities at www.sfparamedics.org/pages/about/volunteer.php

CANDIDATE PHYSICAL ABILITY TEST (CPAT) INFORMATION:

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

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

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

CPAT TESTING CENTER LOCATIONS:

Southern California:
626 N. Eckhoff Street
Orange, CA 92868

Northern California
526 Commerce Way
Livermore, CA 94551

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

FIRE SERVICE INFORMATION FROM THE EVERYONE GOES HOME FOUNDATION:



www.EveryoneGoesHome.com

EVERYONE GOES HOME® FIREFIGHTER LIFE SAFETY INITIATIVES

[National Fallen Firefighters Foundation and Vision 20-20 Needs Your Help - Take a Community Risk Reduction Program Survey](#) September 20, 2010
News Alert

» **Take the Survey:** [Community Risk Reduction Program Survey](#)

The National Fallen Firefighters Foundation, in partnership with Vision 20-20, is studying the profile of Community Risk Reduction (CRR) programs across the country. Community Risk Reduction incorporates both fire prevention activities and public education outreach; it is a more encompassing term that incorporates all the tools and activities a fire department uses to protect its community and its firefighters from harm. We are undertaking this project to more fully understand how Firefighter Initiatives 14 and 15 are being included in fire department strategic decisions-or not.

Please take some time to look over the survey and then answer thoughtfully, honestly, and fully. If you like, copy the document into a word processing program and then transfer your answers back to the survey as there is no way to stop in the middle, save, and then go back to the on-line document. This survey was developed by a team of demonstration departments who have made a commitment to strategic Community Risk Reduction over many years.

If you would like to spotlight your department or any of it's CRR projects, please send a brief description to [Dr. JoEllen Kelly](#) at the Everyone Goes Home® program. We are looking for departments and programs to add to our collection of best practices. Very shortly, these will be made available for every department to look at (and borrow) on our EveryoneGoesHome.com website.

If you have any questions, please contact [Dr. JoEllen Kelly](#).

» **Take the Survey:** [Community Risk Reduction Program Survey](#)

» For More Information Visit: 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 NATIONAL FALLEN FIREFIGHTERS FOUNDATION:



[National Tribute Honors 105 Fallen Firefighters](#)

29th National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Weekend - Celebrates the Lives of Heroes

As a new season was ushered in to the foothills of the Catocin Mountains by glorious blue skies and crisp autumn breezes, the survivors of 105 firefighters who died in the line of duty were surrounded by thousands offering the support of the Nation's fire service. Some had known or worked with their loved one, while others, who had once walked in their shoes, were there ready to be their helping hand to find comfort and healing.

In a fitting tribute to the selfless dedication, compassion and commitment to service that all firefighters bring to the job, the lives of the fallen were remembered and celebrated during the 29th National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Weekend, October 2 - 3, at the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, MD. The National Fallen Firefighters Foundation (NFFF) hosted the immediate survivors of those who passed at the Academy, providing travel, lodging, and meals during the weekend, allowing them to fully participate in the weekend. Of those honored during the two-day event, 80 were firefighters who died in 2009 while serving their communities, and 25 were those who died during previous years. Among the 25, 11 were Military firefighters who died while performing firefighting duties between 1981 and 2009, marking the first time that members of the armed services were recognized during the Memorial Weekend.

"Firefighters face inherent dangers every day while protecting the lives and property of their communities. Far too often, they make the ultimate sacrifice," said Chief Dennis Compton, Chairman of the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation Board of Directors. "The National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Weekend brings their loved ones and the fire service together to honor and remember these selfless men and women. It is a time to reflect upon their lives and to let their families, coworkers, and friends know that they will never be forgotten."

- » Read: [The Full Article on Weekend.FireHero.org](#)
- » Watch: [2010 Video Highlights](#)
- » Photos: [2010 Memorial Weekend Slideshow](#)



FIREFIGHTER FATALITY INFORMATION:

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

Name: James M. Owen
Rank: Firefighter/Paramedic
Age: 56
Gender: Male
Status: Career
Years of Service: 30
Date of Incident: 09/16/2010
Time of Incident: 1127hrs
Date of Death: 09/16/2010
Fire Department: Orange County Fire Authority
Address: PO Box 57115, 1 Fire Authority RD, Irvine, CA 92619-7115
Fire Department Chief: Keith Richter
Fire Department Website: <http://www.ocfa.org>

Incident Description: Firefighter/Paramedic Owen was participating in multi-company training at the Orange County Fire Authority Regional Fire Operations Training Center when he fell ill. Crews on scene immediately rendered care and while being assessed Owen went into a full cardiac arrest. Advanced Life Support care was initiated and Firefighter Owen was transported to Western Medical Center in Santa Ana where he passed away from a cause still to be reported.

Incident Location: 1 Fire Authority RD

Funeral Arrangements: Information on funeral services will be announced as soon as it becomes available.

Memorial Fund Contact and Address: Pending.

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

To date, 58 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2010; 56 from incidents that occurred in 2010 and 2 from previous year incidents. Year-to-date monthly and annual USFA firefighter fatality reports are posted online @ http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/statistics/ff_stats.shtm

AND:

Name: Mark Johnson
Rank: Deputy Fire Chief
Age: 55

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Gender: Male
Status: Career
Years of Service: 24
Date of Incident: 09/20/2010
Time of Incident: 1630hrs
Date of Death: 09/20/2010
Fire Department: Hinsdale Fire Department
Address: 121 Symonds Drive, Hinsdale, IL 60521
Fire Department Chief: Mike Kelly
Fire Department Website: <http://www.villageofhinsdale.org/fd>

Incident Description: Deputy Fire Chief Johnson responded to an emergency medical call with fire department units and, after returning to the fire station, collapsed while conducting department mandated physical training. Deputy Fire Chief Johnson was treated by fire department paramedics and other medical personnel, but passed away from a cause still to be reported.

Incident Location: 121 Symonds Drive, Hinsdale, IL 60521

Funeral Arrangements: Pending

Memorial Fund Contact and Address: In honor of Deputy Fire Chief Mark Johnson, c/o Hinsdale Fire Department, 121 Symonds Drive, Hinsdale, IL 60521.

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

To date, 59 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2010; 57 from incidents that occurred in 2010 and 2 from previous year incidents. Year-to-date monthly and annual USFA firefighter fatality reports are posted online @ http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/statistics/ff_stats.shtm

AND:

Name: Edward Mosely
Rank: Firefighter
Age: 65
Gender: Male
Status: Volunteer
Years of Service: 15
Date of Incident: 09/14/2010
Time of Incident: 0930hrs
Date of Death: 09/26/2010
Fire Department: Steele Creek Acres Volunteer Fire Department
Address: 201 Private Road 1401, Morgan, TX 76671-3242
Fire Department Chief: Bryan Busby
Fire Department POC: David McCarty

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Incident Description: While on the ground level, Firefighter Edward Mosely was assisting other firefighters who were working on the roof of a Steele Creek Acres Station. His heel caught on a stack of sheet metal and he fell backwards onto the concrete floor hitting his head. Firefighter Mosely went into a coma and died on September 26, 2010 from injuries sustained from this accident.

Incident Location: County Road 1409, Morgan, TX 76671

Funeral Arrangements: Pending

Memorial Fund Contact and Address: Pending

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

To date, 60 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2010; 58 from incidents that occurred in 2010 and 2 from previous year incidents. Year-to-date monthly and annual USFA firefighter fatality reports are posted online @ http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/statistics/ff_stats.shtm

AND:

Name:	Ryan Neil Seitz
Rank:	Firefighter
Age:	26
Gender:	Male
Status:	Volunteer
Years of Service:	<1
Date of Incident:	09/24/2010
Time of Incident:	1800hrs
Date of Death:	09/24/2010
Fire Department:	McArthur Fire Department
Address:	303 West High Street, McArthur, OH 45651
Fire Department Chief:	Charles Fri
Fire Department Website:	http://www.mcarthurfd.org/

Incident Description: While working with other firefighters to bring an outdoor fire under control, Firefighter Seitz was struck and killed by a part of a pressurized water tank that exploded. Although the investigation continues, initial reports from local authorities indicate that a pressure valve or pressure plate on the water tank had malfunctioned. The explosion injured a second McArthur firefighter who was treated at a hospital and released.

Incident Location: Liberty Township, Ross County, OH.

Funeral Arrangements: Funeral services will be held 10 A.M., Wednesday, September 29, 2010 at the Calvary Assembly of God Church, 63849 US Highway 50, McArthur, with Rev. Gary Sollars and Rev. Donald Shoemaker officiating. Interment will be in Elk Cemetery, McArthur. Friends may call at the Calvary Assembly of God Church on Tuesday, from 2-8

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P.M. with a Memorial Service for the Fallen Firefighter being held at 7 P.M. Arrangements are by Garrett-Cardaras Funeral Home, 201 W. High St., McArthur.

Memorial Fund Contact and Address: The family suggests contributions be made in memory of Ryan Neil Seitz to the Herbert Wescoat Memorial Library, 120 N. Market St., McArthur, Ohio 45651 or the McArthur Fire Department, 303 W. High St., McArthur, Ohio, 45651.

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

To date, 61 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2010; 59 from incidents that occurred in 2010 and 2 from previous year incidents. Year-to-date monthly and annual USFA firefighter fatality reports are posted online @ http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/statistics/ff_stats.shtm

AND:

Name:	William Harold "Hal" Clark
Rank:	Firefighter
Age:	54
Gender:	Male
Status:	Volunteer
Years of Service:	30+
Date of Incident:	09/24/2010
Time of Incident:	1731hrs
Date of Death:	09/24/2010
Fire Department:	Atlantic Volunteer Fire & Rescue Company
Address:	PO Box 207, 10071 Atlantic RD, Atlantic, VA 23303-0207
Fire Department Chief:	David Grant
Fire Department Website:	http://www.esva.net/~atlanticvfd/

Incident Description: Firefighter Clark passed away at the Peninsula Regional Medical Center after he was transported to the hospital due to possible heat related injuries incurred while fighting a fast moving woods fire on Virginia's Eastern Shore. Investigation into the cause of death continues.

Incident Location: 3420 Lankford Highway.

Funeral Arrangements: Friends are invited to call Thursday 7-9 PM. at Union Baptist Church on Church Street in Chincoteague, VA. Funeral Service with full Firefighter Honors will be held at Union Baptist Church, Chincoteague Island, VA, at 2 PM on Friday, October 1st, with Rev. Maurice Enright and Rev. Bob Reese officiating. All firefighters and motorcycle riders are welcome and encouraged to participate. Any department planning to attend, please contact the station @ 757-824-4844. Interment will be held at John W. Taylor Memorial Cemetery Temperenceville, VA. The family would like to invite everyone to join them for a reception after the service at the Chincoteague Center on 6155 Community Drive on Chincoteague, VA.

Memorial Fund Contact and Address: Flowers accepted or donations may be made to a fire company of your choice.

Tribute is being paid to Life Member and Company President, Firefighter William Harold "Hal" Clark at <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/>.

To date, 62 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2010; 60 from incidents that occurred in 2010 and 2 from previous year incidents. Year-to-date monthly and annual USFA firefighter fatality reports are posted online @ http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/statistics/ff_stats.shtm.

AND:

Name: Ronald W. Stephan
Rank: Firefighter
Age: 61
Gender: Male
Status: Volunteer
Years of Service: 20
Date of Incident: 09/24/2010
Time of Incident: 1436hrs
Date of Death: 09/25/2010
Fire Department: Lynn Volunteer Fire Department
Address: P.O. Box 65, 101 E Church ST, Lynn, IN 47355
Fire Department Chief: Charles Nicholson

Incident Description: Firefighter Stephan suffered an apparent fatal heart attack the morning following his participation in a mutual-aid response to a large brush fire in Ohio.

Incident Location: 9849 Fourman Road, Laura, OH

Funeral Arrangements: Arrangements are pending at Thomas Memorial Chapel of Lynn, IN.

Memorial Fund Contact and Address: In honor of Firefighter Ronald W. Stephan, c/o Lynn Volunteer Fire Department, P.O. Box 65, Lynn, IN 47355

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

To date, 63 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2010; 61 from incidents that occurred in 2010 and 2 from previous year incidents. Year-to-date monthly and annual USFA firefighter fatality reports are posted online @ http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/statistics/ff_stats.shtm

AND:

Name: Robert Hall
Rank: Firefighter
October 20, 2010 www.chabotfire.com

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Age: 57
Gender: Male
Status: Volunteer
Years of Service: 4
Date of Incident: 09/27/2010
Time of Incident: 1900hrs
Date of Death: 09/27/2010
Fire Department: Lynchburg Area Joint Fire & Ambulance District
Address: PO Box 585, 8123 State RTE 135, Lynchburg, OH 45142-0585
Fire Department Chief: David Manning

Incident Description: Upon completion of a firehouse meeting and as he was preparing to perform apparatus checks, Firefighter Hall became ill. While being transported to the hospital by Advance Life Support personnel, Firefighter Hall went into cardiac arrest. Despite all resuscitative efforts, however, Firefighter Hall passed away from complications as a result of the cardiac arrest.

Incident Location: 8123 State RTE 135, Lynchburg, OH 45142-0585

Funeral Arrangements: Pending

Memorial Fund Contact and Address: Pending

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

To date, 64 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2010; 62 from incidents that occurred in 2010 and 2 from previous year incidents. Year-to-date monthly and annual USFA firefighter fatality reports are posted online @
http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/statistics/ff_stats.shtm

AND:

Name: Jim Saunders
Rank: Firefighter
Age: 52
Gender: Male
Status: Career
Years of Service: 20
Date of Incident: 10/03/2010
Time of Incident: Pending
Date of Death: 10/07/2010
Fire Department: Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District
Address: 2101 Hurley Way, Sacramento, CA 95825
Fire Department Chief: William B. Sponable
Fire Department Website: <http://www.sacmetrofire.ca.gov/>

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Incident Description: Firefighter Saunders succumbed to a cardiac arrest injury that he suffered while operating at a fire on the Haggin Oaks Municipal Golf Course several days earlier.

Incident Location: Haggin Oaks Municipal Golf Course

Funeral Arrangements: Pending

Memorial Fund Contact and Address: Pending

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

To date, 66 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2010; 64 from incidents that occurred in 2010 and 2 from previous year incidents. Year-to-date monthly and annual USFA firefighter fatality reports are posted online @ http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/statistics/ff_stats.shtm

AND:

Name:	Thomas Innes
Rank:	Assistant Fire Chief
Age:	61
Gender:	Male
Status:	Volunteer
Years of Service:	Pending
Date of Incident:	10/02/2010
Time of Incident:	2245hrs
Date of Death:	10/03/2010
Fire Department:	Hindsboro Community Fire Protection District
Address:	PO Box 37, Hindsboro, IL 61930
Fire Department Chief:	Steve Beaty

Incident Description: Assistant Fire Chief Innes responded to a medical call in the town of Hindsboro. After the call was completed and the patient was transported, Innes went back to the station, readied the equipment, and then returned home. Shortly after returning home, Chief Innes became ill and was taken to a hospital where he passed away from a cause still to be reported.

Incident Location: Pending

Funeral Arrangements: Pending

Memorial Fund Contact and Address: Pending

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

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To date, 65 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2010; 63 from incidents that occurred in 2010 and 2 from previous year incidents. Year-to-date monthly and annual USFA firefighter fatality reports are posted online @ http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/statistics/ff_stats.shtm

AND:

Name: William Akin, Jr.
Rank: Fire Police Captain
Age: 52
Gender: Male
Status: Volunteer
Years of Service: 25+
Date of Incident: 10/19/2010
Time of Incident: 2115hrs
Date of Death: 10/19/2010
Fire Department: Ghent Volunteer Fire Company
Address: PO Box 32, 2230 Route 66, Ghent, NY 12075
Fire Department Chief: Walter Engel
Fire Department Website: <http://www.ghentfire.org/>

Incident Description: Fire Police Captain Akin was operating his privately owned vehicle with emergency lighting in response to a motor vehicle accident. After stopping and clearing his intersection, Akin proceeded across the roadway and struck a telephone pole. Authorities are investigating the incident to determine a cause of death and whether Captain Akin suffered a medical emergency causing the accident.

Incident Location: Water Street and State Route 66

Funeral Arrangements: Pending

Memorial Fund Contact and Address: Pending

Tribute is being paid to Fire Police Captain William Akin, Jr., at <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/>

To date, 67 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2010; 65 from incidents that occurred in 2010 and 2 from previous year incidents. Year-to-date monthly and annual USFA firefighter fatality reports are posted online @ http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/statistics/ff_stats.shtm

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

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

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

GEORGIA FIREFIGHTER LODD: INJURY CAUSED "FLESH EATING" DISEASE LINE OF DUTY DEATH

It is with deep regret that we advise you that a Bryan County (GA) Firefighter, who during a training drill earlier this year contracted Necrotizing Fasciitis, commonly known as the "flesh-eating" disease, died in the Line of Duty on Sept. 9 at Doctor's Hospital in Augusta. Firefighter Terry Nielsen, 56, was rushed to St. Joseph's Hospital early on June 23, where he was diagnosed with the disease. After he was stabilized, he was airlifted to the burn center in Augusta. FF Nielson attended a training drill the previous night where he suffered a minor injury to his left arm. Later, he began experiencing severe pain in that arm, nausea and a fever. Doctors were able to halt the spread of the virus, but not before its effects caused the loss of skin and muscle tissue to a large portion of his upper body. FF Nielson was a seven-year veteran and former State of Georgia Rookie Firefighter of the Year. As always, our sincere condolences to his friend, family and all affected.

FIGHTING FIREFIGHTING CUTS?

Take a look at yesterdays report by CNN's John King and how Firefighter layoffs and staffing cuts across the U.S. impacts Americans. **CLICK HERE:** <http://tinyurl.com/2bknzqa>

AND IT'S NOT JUST STAFFING CUTS:

Members of the Wheatland (WI) VFD showed what they think of their outdated bunker gear by tossing it on the floor during a town board meeting Thursday night. The town board, after a heated discussion, approved \$52,000 to buy 26 new sets of Bunker gear. Maynard Cox, a Vernon County Board supervisor and Firefighter for the town just outside De Soto, said the firefighters had agreed Sept. 1 they wouldn't fight fires until their gear was replaced. The gear is only good for 10 years, he said, yet some of their equipment is nearly 20 years old. Threads on the gear ignited while they battled a recent structure fire, he said. Discussion went on for more than 30 minutes, during which 13 firefighters disposed of their gear in front of the town board. Sometimes you just have to make your point very clearly.

VIDEO UPDATE: CLOSE CALL FOR PA FIREFIGHTERS-Injured with Burns and Fractures:

As you read previously from The Secret List, several Firefighters were seriously injured while operating in a multi-family dwelling in Coatesville, PA yesterday morning. The fire was caused by careless smoking. Some of the incident was caught on video. While not life threatening, the injured members are dealing with some very significant fractures along with 2nd and 3rd degree burns. **HERE** are video clips along with video clips on our home page - <http://www.phillyfirenews.com/content/firewire/detail/4602.php>.

In this next video from you can see a FF's handlight just prior to the collapse:

<http://abclocal.go.com/wpvi/video?id=7660994>

The building was occupied (all residents were safely removed) and is reportedly light wood truss construction with sprinklers throughout, but not on the balconies or attic space. There was also apparently a fire wall to the right of where the collapse occurred. Details to follow, once the members focus on recovery from their injuries.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 9-11-10 / 2045 Hours

AND:

Hey,

One person was killed in a crash involving an ambulance in Ohio this afternoon. A Grafton Township ambulance was going south when it hit a civilians car at an intersection on Route 303, just after noon. The driver of the car, an 82-year-old man, was pronounced dead at the scene. The driver of the ambulance and a passenger were taken to area hospitals. There was a patient in the ambulance at the time of the crash who was taken by another ambulance to the hospital. The crash is still under investigation.

FREAK FDNY EMS RELATED CRASH KILLS PEDESTRIAN

An elderly man was struck and killed by a van that flipped over at a Queens intersection after a freak accident involving a responding ambulance and a commercial vehicle. The 75 year old pedestrian was killed just two blocks from Elmhurst Hospital, where an FDNY ambulance carrying a patient was enroute to around 0700 when it broadsided a van that flipped on its side and slid into the intersection's southeast corner, hitting the civilian. The civilian was pronounced dead at the hospital, where two FDNY EMS members and the van driver were also treated for minor injuries. The ambulance patient was transported there in another ambulance.

BALD TIRES ON MOTOR CITY FD EMS UNIT-Detroit EMS Rig Involved in Accident

A Detroit EMS truck that tried to stop slid into an intersection and witnesses say a Dodge truck hit the EMS rig, which, in turn, struck a minivan. What caused the crash? According to sources and pictures snapped at the scene, the brakes failed on Medic 22. One photo shows that the tires were practically bald (video below). However, that doesn't seem to matter to the city says Wisam Zeineh. As president of Detroit's FD EMS, he represents the workers and believes they are put in danger every day. We asked if he knew when the trucks were last maintained. He said, "I can't answer that. It's so infrequent that we ever get any maintenance." "Really needs to be looked at how things are being run in this fire department. Those that run it should be absolutely ashamed of themselves. The people that work here have families that they want to go home to," Zeineh said.

VIDEO AND PHOTOS HERE: <http://tinyurl.com/28vm4cf>

RESPONDING DCFD APPARATUS VS METRO BUS CRASH

A DC engine company and Metro bus collided sending 23 people to the hospital around 1000 hours at the intersection 14th and Madison in Northwest this morning. DC Fire and EMS

Spokesman Pete Piringer says most people have neck and back injuries. He says everyone is expected to be released from the hospital Wednesday. Pete said that 19 civilians and 4 Firefighters were being treated. He says the fire apparatus was responding to an emergency call of a woman that was struck by a vehicle. The fire apparatus had its lights and sirens on at the time.

EASTERN KENTUCKY FIREHOUSE FIRE INJURES 1 FIREFIGHTER

A Breathitt County fire station caught fire this morning and most of the FF's live within a few miles from the station in Canoe and immediately called for backup. "We seen that we needed help and we sent out a call. I believe every FD in Breathitt County come to us. And we appreciate that," said Canoe Fire Chief Ben Nickell. The fire tore through a building connected with the stations apparatus bays, destroying the meeting room, kitchen, and most of their storage. Despite all the damage, Nickell says that all of the gear and apparatus they need to respond to calls was saved. Only one firefighter was hurt in the blaze, suffering minor injuries. He was treated and later released. The cause of the fire was electrical, starting in the building with the most damage.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL,

BillyG

The Secret List 9-15-10 / 2204 Hours

AND:

Hey,

Just after midnight, early this morning in Prince Georges County (Maryland), 3 civilians were killed and 2 Prince George's FF/Medics on an ambulance were sent to a trauma center for evaluation when the ambulance was struck by a speeding civilians vehicle, splitting it wide open. Ambulance 826 had just departed their quarters and were traveling west on Marlboro Pike responding to an overdose call. Initial reports indicate that a GMC Suburban SUV was traveling east-bound in the west-bound lanes at an extremely high rate of speed. The ambulance, with emergency lights on and siren sounding, had to swerve to avoid a head-up collision. The SUV side-swiped the ambulance and then hit a brick wall and utility pole before coming to rest on it's roof about 120 feet from where it first struck the ambulance. The 3 occupants of the SUV, adult males, were pronounced dead on the scene. 2 Firefighter/Medics were transported to DC's MedStar Trauma Center for evaluation, but did not appear to have suffered any injuries. The ambulance sustained major damage from the crash in which the entire right side of the patient compartment was torn off. **We have some photos on our homepage.** Additionally, more details can be found HERE:

<http://pgfdpio.blogspot.com/>

OHIO PARAMEDIC KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY

It is with deep regret that we advise you that a First Care Ambulance Paramedic, in the Cincinnati area was killed in the Line of Duty after being struck by a bus. Additionally, 3 others suffered injuries from a runaway Metro Bus at Woodward High School Monday morning. The Metro bus was parked behind a First Care Ambulance transport unit that brings disabled students to school. The Metro driver left the driver's seat to go to the rear of the bus. The bus began moving forward. Paramedic Sherry Pettit, 40, was the driver of the First Care unit and she was opening the rear doors of the ambulance when she was struck. She died a short time after arriving at University Hospital. 37 year-old April Travis, a First Care

EMT, was injured and a student in the ambulance was also injured. As always, our sincere condolences.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL,

BillyG

The Secret List 9-16-10 / 0233 Hours

AND:

ORANGE COUNTY (CALIF) FIREFIGHTER/PARAMEDIC LODD-COLLAPSE DURING TRAINING

It is with great sadness that we relay the announcement about the sudden passing of Orange County (CA) Fire Authority Firefighter/Paramedic Jim Owen, from OCFA Chief Keith Richter. FF/PM Owen collapsed during a "Training Activity Group", which is basically a multi-company training at their Regional Fire Operations Training Center today. He began feeling poorly and was being assessed when he went into a full arrest. The crews on scene immediately rendered ALS care and FF/PM Owen was transported to Western Medical Center in Santa Ana where he was pronounced dead, in the Line of Duty, at approximately 1230 Hours. FF Owen was 56 years old and is survived by his wife, Sharon, and three sons, Jim Jr., Daniel, and Kevin. He has been with the OCFA since 1980 and spent the majority of his career at Fire Station 4. Jim will be sorely missed by his friends and family. As always our most sincere condolences to the members of the OCFA and especially his surviving family and friends.

ILLINOIS FIREFIGHTER STRUCK BY APPARATUS-BACKING INCIDENT

A 45-year-old FF/EMT is in stable condition with fractures after a Blue Mound FD member accidentally backed over her with their medium duty rescue truck Tuesday. Karla Minor, a South Macon Fire Protection District Firefighter, was walking on the shoulder of the road next to the apparatus as it was backing up. The truck struck Minor at a low rate of speed and partially ran over her. The South Macon and Blue Mound fire districts were operating on an EMS run. FF Minor was transported to a local hospital before being airlifted to Carle Foundation Hospital in Urbana. A nurse there confirmed that FF Minor was in stable condition with a fractured tailbone and possibly a fractured pelvis, and they were running other tests.

FIREFIGHTERS AND WHAT WE BREATHE:

The USFA and the IAFF has released "**Respiratory Diseases and the Fire Service**", an outstanding report discussing the findings of a long-term study intended to examine and improve the occupational health of firefighters. "USFA is committed to enhancing the occupational health and safety of America's fire service," said Acting U.S. Fire Administrator Chief Glenn Gaines. "The purpose of this initiative is to provide information to the fire service on the mitigation of the long-term effects of occupational respiratory exposure." "Respiratory diseases remain a significant health issue for firefighters and other emergency responders," said IAFF General President Harold A. Schaitberger. "Respiratory effects due to firefighter occupational exposure are a concern affecting the fire service throughout the United States." The goal of this project was to research the long-term effects and post-exposure mitigation of occupational respiratory exposure to firefighters and develop a report based on this research.

HERE is the REPORT:

<http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/research/safety/index.shtm>

HERE is MORE from the IAFF's Rich Duffy:

<http://blog.iaff.org/post/2010/09/15/Fire-Fighter-Respiratory-Disease.aspx>

WISCONSIN FIREFIGHTERS PROVIDE THE FACTS ON THE INTERNET

Sheboygan Firefighters are providing the facts straight to the voters, launching a website and posting several billboards urging residents to vote AGAINST dropping the SFD EMS in the Nov. 2 referendum. The Sheboygan Firefighters, IAFF Local 483, developed the very well done web site after the Common Council approved the public referendum to end years of debate over the financial returns of the ambulance service. If they fail, Firefighter staffing will be cut. **HERE** is their site: www.SheboyganFireFacts.com
Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 9-16-10 - 2122 Hours

AND:

Hey,

Senators will try to attach 9/11 legislation to a military funding bill Tuesday (tomorrow) in a surprise gambit to break a logjam on help for 9/11 victims. The amendment would be identical to the \$7.4 billion James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act pending in the House. Senate passage would raise the chances of getting the measure to President Obama, who vows to sign it. The measure to provide care for thousands of people sickened by exposure to Ground Zero would be offered by Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand of NY. HOWEVER, there is a major catch. Some Senators are mounting a filibuster of the bill because other Senators have also added an amendment to end the military's "don't ask, don't tell policy," and another to grant kids of illegal immigrants a chance at citizenship if they are in the armed services or college. Of course they did. MORE HERE: <http://tinyurl.com/3xq57h4>

(TSL NOTE: Gang, we could care less if you are Democratic, Republican or whatever, the game playing with this bill is embarrassing. If you think the NY Firefighters and other responders will be the last victims of terrorism, needing assistance and this "9/11 thing" in NY doesn't matter, you are missing the boat. Your political party means nothing on this issue, what matters is that we are letting down Firefighters, EMT's, cops and others who are ranging everywhere from sick, to dying...and in this case, the "political" beat goes on. If you are a Firefighter, EMT or Cop in the United States, this very well could affect you next, no matter how you vote. Our Federally elected officials on both sides are missing the opportunity for leadership, again. Speak to them about it, not us.)

CAN YOU MAKE A QUICK PHONE CALL ON WEDNESDAY?

(For ALL Firefighters and EMS members)

Seriously, we need you to contact your Senators on Wednesday, September 22, and ask them to cosponsor the Public Safety Spectrum and Wireless Innovation Act of 2010 (S. 3756). READ WHY:

The national call-in day is being organized by the Public Safety Alliance whose leadership will be meeting on this critical issue with Congressional and Administration officials this week. The Public Safety Spectrum and Wireless Innovation Act of 2010 establishes a regulatory process and structure to allocate an additional 10 MHz of communications spectrum (the D Block) directly to public safety rather than auctioning the spectrum to the private sector. It

sets aside funding from other auction proceeds to construct a nationwide, interoperable mobile wireless broadband network hardened to public safety requirements. This will improve our nation's Firefighters, EMT's and Police Officers with new communications technologies that are urgently needed. **Please JUST take two simple steps on (this Wednesday) September 22:** Call your senators and ask them to co-sponsor the Public Safety Spectrum and Wireless Innovation Act of 2010 (S. 3756). Contact information for your senators is available HERE: <http://www.senate.gov/> FORWARD this request to YOUR e-mail list and ask them to call their senators too. For more information on the D Block, GO HERE: <http://www.psafirst.org/>

LOOK: The Fire Service is very close to successful legislation that will help to build a Nationwide Public Safety Wireless Broadband Network which will transform emergency communications forever. We are at a pivotal point where every voice of the fire service is needed to send a message to each of our respective members of Congress. Please take a moment to make the call and have your Brothers and Sisters do it as well.

Take Care,

BillyG

The Secret List 10-20-10 / 2212 Hours

AND:

ILLINOIS DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF DIES IN THE LINE OF DUTY-MEDICAL EMERGENCY

It is with deep regret that we pass on to you that earlier today, Hinsdale (IL) Deputy Fire Chief Mark Johnson passed away suddenly, in the Line of Duty. Deputy Chief Johnson was a twenty-four year veteran of the HFD. He started with the Village Fire Department in February of 1986. He was promoted to his current position in May of 2008. When further information becomes available, including arrangements and services for Deputy Chief Johnson, they will be posted as per Chief Mike Kelly, HFD. As always, our most sincere condolences.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL,

BillyG

The Secret List 1-20-10 / 2312 Hours

AND:

5 FIREFIGHTERS KILLED IN AN INDUSTRIAL FIRE IN BRAZIL

6 People have died, 5 being Firefighters along with 7 people who were injured yesterday in a fire in the basement of the administrative building of a bus manufacturer in the Rio de Janeiro area of Brazil. 5 Firefighters were members of the industrial fire brigade, the 6th was a 34 year old employee who was trying to rescue her car parked on site. Initial reports are that the Firefighter Line of Duty deaths were apparently caused by smoke inhalation as all of the LODD Firefighters were found by other Firefighters without SCBA / masks. The fire started around 0815 hours and was extinguished by firefighters within 40 minutes. The operation had 38 Firefighters, 7 fire companies, 5 EMS units and a helicopter. As always, our sincere condolences.

DETROIT FIRE DETAILS:

Lot's in the news these days regarding the DFD, not the members themselves as much as the issues related to the DFD's ability to provide services.

HERE are several pieces worthy of your time:

=**VIDEO** where a reporter does a story about his "ride along" with DFD:

<http://tinyurl.com/2dybv9r>

=**VIDEO** of a Firehouse unable to respond due to a power outage (WHY the power was out is also in this story) and the bay doors wouldn't open: <http://tinyurl.com/3868ek3>

=**EDITORIAL** on changes needed at the DFD: <http://tinyurl.com/2ehjqlr>

WORKING FIRE RESCUE: TRIPLE FATAL FIRE IN VIRGINIA

While not specifically a "close call" or worse for Firefighters, this FIREGROUND RADIO TRAFFIC is worthy of use for training at any FD. Thanks to Dave Statter for the link.

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

FIRE CAUGHT ON VIDEO WITH THANKS!

Just "down the road" from us here is the sharp Union Township FD, in Clermont County, OH. They had a working fire the other day where the BUILDING OCCUPANTS did a video thanking them for the job well done. CHECK OUT the video as it actually shows the fire starting (thanks to security cameras interior). Check it out HERE:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lp019NtkaB8>

SEE YOU THERE?

NATIONAL FALLEN FIREFIGHTER MEMORIAL WEEKEND: (Coming up NEXT weekend)

If you are within a day drive of Emmitsburg and have never attended the memorial service, IT IS well worth your and your Firefighters time to make the trip. More details HERE:

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

IF YOU CANNOT TRAVEL TO THE NFA, you can watch it live-see the above link for more details.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL,

BillyG

The Secret List 9-23-10 / 1014 Hours

AND

Hey,

In Pennsylvania this afternoon, an Exeter Township man was killed when the hand cycle he received last weekend at a fundraiser collided with an ambulance in the township. Steven B. Johnson, 49, was westbound on the hand cycle, a bicycle modified for people with leg paralysis, at 11:43 a.m. when he veered into the path of a Boyertown Advanced Life Support unit on Rugby Road. The ambulance was returning to its station from a call and was not carrying any patients. Johnson, a long-time cycling road racer who was paralyzed as a result of a spinal cord injury in a 1993 downhill road bicycling accident, was riding the hand cycle the IM ABLE Foundation gave to him before it held its first duathlon Saturday in Wyomissing. The foundation promotes active lifestyles for people with disabilities.

LEVEL 1 STAGE

Jackson (MS) City Councilman Kenneth Stokes thinks the city needs to change ambulance companies or go into the ambulance business. City Hall Dweller Stokes says the victim, 25-year-old Lee Joseph Martin, had to wait 23 minutes for help because police had not secured the shooting scene. "You have got to take the risk. You can't let citizens die. Because if you

are wounded, you say I'm not safe. Now if you can't assume the risk then give it to the person who can assume the risk," said Stokes. Of course, that would be the police. AMR spokesman Jim Pollard said it is national policy that ambulances do not go into shooting scenes until they are sure the scene is secure and that is to protect emergency personnel. Pollard says he has studied the times and found they actually got the call at 10:15:04, were on scene at 10:22:24, and had patient contact at 10:22:29 or seven minutes twenty-five seconds after getting the call. **ALWAYS STAGE when there is potential for a crime or violent related run until the cops advise.**

TAKE OFF YOUR BRA, NOW!! - BRAS THAT SAVE LIVES

Since 1998, we clearly have supported our obligation to keep TSL members informed of anything that could lead to the saving of lives. In this case, a lovely new bra on the market promises to do more than just "support" women, it promises to save lives, too. Dr. Elena Bodnar won an Ig Nobel Public Health prize in 2009 for her invention aptly named, the "Emergency Bra." The lingerie "can quickly be converted into a pair of protective face masks, one for the bra wearer and one to be given to some needy bystander" in the event an emergency. Well how about that. Perhaps this might work for some who don't like to wear your SCBA mask? We're just say'n... The Dr said she came up with the idea for the invention after studying the effects of the 1986 Chernobyl nuclear plant disaster. She said if people had masks readily available within the first hours of the disaster, they could have avoided breathing toxic fumes causing radiation sickness. So the next time you are in a toxic relationship, er, um, we mean environment, and someone yells "TAKE OFF THAT BRA" so that it may be shared - it very well could save a life. Of course, training and certification may soon be required for both the user and the sharer, as well as cooperation and clear communication. We will keep you advised. MORE HERE: <http://tinyurl.com/3x4qjxa> and HERE: <http://tinyurl.com/2w3ncvn>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 10-23-10 / 1940 Hours

AND

OHIO FIREFIGHTER KILLED, 1 FF INJURED IN THE LINE OF DUTY-CATASTROPHIC EQUIP. FAILURE

It is with deep regret that we advise you that 1 Firefighter has died in the Line of Duty and another Firefighter has been injured this late afternoon while operating at brush/field fires in Ross County, near Vinton County. The Firefighters' names currently aren't being released-but several fire departments have been operating at the fires. Unconfirmed reports are that the Firefighter was killed instantly after a catastrophic equipment failure, the 2nd Firefighter has NLT injuries. The Firefighters are both reported to be from the McArthur FD which is located in Vinton County, in the South Eastern Ohio Village of McArthur. Numerous fire companies have been operating at the fires near Rts 50 and 327 that have been pushed by heavy winds throughout the day and are still burning, but now under control. Ross County is in south central Ohio, south of Columbus and northeast of the Cincinnati area. The fire was reported to be near Londonderry in eastern Liberty Township, Ross County. As always, our sincere condolences to all affected. More details will follow.

LYNN, MA FIREFIGHTER SERIOUS - HOUSE FIRE

A Lynn FF was rushed to Mass General Hospital today after operating at a multi-family home in Lynn. The fire ripped through at least 2 of the floors in the home. Within 25 minutes, the small fire turned into 3 alarms. Members were able to contain the fire within an hour, but it wasn't an easy job on an abnormally warm fall day. The LFD did not specify what kind of injuries the Firefighter suffered, but did say it was not burn related. The Firefighter is listed in serious condition.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 9-24-10 / 2042 Hours

AND

OHIO FIREFIGHTER KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY, 1 INJURED (Update)

UPDATE: Reports are that Firefighter Ryan Seitz, 27 of the McArthur FD (Ohio) was operating on or near an apparatus that had a pressurized tank of some kind. The 2nd Firefighter injured, as reported earlier with non life threatening injuries has since been released from the hospital. Initial reports are that FF Seitz was killed when pressure inside a water tank built up, for an unknown reason, to the extent that it blew up. The remnants of that reportedly struck FF Seitz and killed him in the Line of Duty. Firefighter Seitz joined the MFD in August of 2010, was not married, has no children but is survived by his parents. R.I.P. In all, over a dozen fire companies from Ross, Vinton, Hocking and Pickaway counties all operated at the fires including the one above, where the Firefighter was killed in the Line of Duty. Updates to follow.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 9-24-10 / 2156 Hours

AND:

VIRGINIA FF DIES IN THE LINE OF DUTY-MEDICAL EMERGENCY-OTHER FF'S DOWN

We regret to advise you that last evening, a member of the Atlantic Volunteer Fire & Rescue Company of Accomack County (VA) died in the Line of Duty while operating at a brush fire in New Church (VA), suffering a medical emergency. Additionally it is reported that 3 other Firefighters were also transported to the hospital in nearby Maryland with heat-related emergencies thought to be NLT. The Firefighter who died, Hal Clark, also served as President of the Atlantic V F & R Company. Accomack is one of 2 counties that makes up Virginia's Eastern Shore, which lies between the Chesapeake Bay and the Atlantic Ocean. Atlantic is one of 14 companies in the county. Accomack borders Wicomico County, MD to the north. **HERE** is their website: <http://www.esva.net/~atlanticvfd/> As always, our sincere condolences.

OHIO LODD UPDATE:

Here is a video of an interview related to last night's LODD in Ross County VA where a Firefighter from the McArthur FF died in the Line of Duty. As you will hear, it is being discussed that an air pressurized water tank on a 4wd apparatus may have been over pressurized, causing the failure. More to follow. <http://tinyurl.com/263z8az>

APPARATUS ROLLOVER IN MICHIGAN EARLY THIS MORNING-CIV. DUI A FACTOR

A Grattan Township fire apparatus rolled over after crashing with a car traveling in the opposite direction hit the guard rail and crossed the center line. The fire apparatus was traveling south when the car crossed the center line. The crash happened just after midnight this morning. The driver of the car was ejected from the vehicle and transported to an area hospital in serious condition. There were 3 Firefighters on board of the apparatus when it rolled, but no one was injured, but were transported as a precautionary measure. Firefighters were responding to a non-emergency call when the crash occurred. The crash remains under investigation, but cops say booze was a factor in this crash.

6 ALARM FIRE IN TORONTO LAST NIGHT INJURES SEVERAL FIRFIGHTERS

A 6 alarm fire in a highrise in Toronto, Ontario (Canada) has left 1200 people homeless, had 10 firefighters treated for heat exhaustion, and sent 14 people to hospital - including 3 Firefighters. According to CTV Toronto, one firefighter had a concussion, one had smoke inhalation, and the other suffered burns. The fire started on the 24th floor, and spread to multiple adjacent units. More details available below (including some video links).

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rAKt8lgGZ3M> (fire showing)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Af5tFE902Uo> (this is an excellent time-lapse video)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-lICurCP9mA> (intense the fire conditions were inside the apartment)

<http://toronto.ctv.ca/servlet/an/local/CTVNews/20100924/toronto-wellesley-highrise-fire-100924/20100924/?hub=TorontoNewHome> (several videos in this link)

NOTE: In the above fire, from an EMS standpoint, the Base Hospital Physician from Sunnybrook Health Sciences (the program that provides medical controls for the land Paramedics in Toronto and for air Paramedics across Ontario) sent a physician to eval the residents of the building and monitor them at the temporary evacuation site.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL,

BillyG

The Secret List 9-25-10 / 0925 Hours

AND:

INDIANA FIREFIGHTER LINE OF DUTY DEATH-MEDICAL EMERGENCY

It is with deep regret that we advise you of the Line of Duty Death of Lynn (Indiana) Volunteer Firefighter Ronald W. Stephan. Firefighter Stephan suffered a fatal heart attack at approximately 1000 Hours (Eastern) yesterday morning. He had responded to a mutual aid fire call to departments in Ohio approximately 40 miles away battling a large field fire Friday evening. He was 61 years old and had served the Lynn Volunteer Fire Department for 20 years. Firefighter Stephan is survived by his wife, two adult children, father, sister, and two granddaughters. As always our sincere condolences.

OHIO FIREFIGHTER LODD ARTICLE (Follow-up)

McArthur FF Ryan Seitz had joined the McArthur Fire Department in Vinton County just 2 months ago. He became a part of the all-volunteer department in southeastern Ohio. But the 26-year-old died in the Line of Duty Friday evening. As you know, he was fighting that brush

fire in Ross County when a piece of a pressurized water tank flew off and struck him about 1800 hours. HERE is a followup article: <http://tinyurl.com/2cdhe7x>

FF Seitz had joined hundreds of other volunteer firefighters Friday to take on wild field fires in eastern Ross County. The State Fire Marshal's Office is still investigating what caused the series of fires on U.S. 50 and Musgrove, and NIOSH is looking into the accident that killed Seitz and sent his fellow firefighter, 34-year-old Aaron Chesser to the hospital. FF's Seitz and Chesser were operating a brush truck when the pressure inside a metal water tank built to a point it blasted the cap off. The cap struck and killed Seitz and injured Chesser who since has been released from the hospital. McArthur fire chief Charles Fri said they're still waiting to hear about funeral arrangements and are doing as well as possible. FF Seitz' Facebook page reveals he liked "being a nerd," video games, reading and he was engaged to be married.

CALIFORNIA FIREFIGHTER CRITICAL BUT STABLE

A Firefighter was seriously injured in a Northern California fire this morning that has destroyed two vehicles and one outbuilding. CalFire advises the FF is in critical but stable condition at a Bay Area hospital. About 300 Firefighters from CalFire, Sonoma County and a number of local fire departments are still operating at the fire that started yesterday.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 9-26-10 / 2139 Hours

AND:

TEXAS FIREFIGHTER DIES IN THE LINE OF DUTY-TRAUMA

It is with deep regret that we advise you that Fire Chief Edward Mosely, of the Steele Creek Acres VFD (Texas) died in the Line of Duty while working at the firehouse. While working on the station, he fell off the roof. As a result of the fall he went into a coma and had part of his brain removed. He died yesterday, Sunday morning at approximately 0218, September 26. The accident occurred on September 14. As always our sincere condolences to all affected.

OHIO FIREFIGHTER SON KILLED AT WAR

While we try to make it a point to honor all soldiers and civilians (who are also Firefighters) who lose their lives at war, we were shook yesterday when the son of an area Firefighter and friend of ours, lost his life in Afghanistan on Friday. U. S. Army Specialist Scott Morrison, 23, is the son of neighboring Blue Ash FD Firefighter Donald Morrison. His family was notified of his military Line of Duty death early Saturday. He served about 2 ½ years. Our sincere condolences to Donny Morrison and his entire family and friends on this terrible loss. Rest In Peace.

6 FIREFIGHTERS HURT IN IOWA THIS MORNING

In Centerville Iowa this morning Firefighters were working a house fire when some kind of explosion occurred sending 6 Firefighters to the hospital. 2 were sent to Mercy Hospital in Des Moines, 2 to the University of Iowa and the other two to Mercy Hospital in Centerville. No reports yet on the seriousness of their injuries.

THIS WEEKEND is the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Service.

Please help honor the nation's fallen firefighters. Add live coverage of the Memorial Service and Candlelight Service to your fire department's website. It is simple to do. Click here for details: <http://weekend.firehero.org/media/live.html> Also, contact your local TV stations, radio stations and newspapers, requesting them to carry the services on their websites so the public can help us pay tribute to the 105 firefighters whose names will be added to the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial.

THE PRINCE OF OAK BROOK, ILLINOIS

We get alotta of e-mail, but one situation filled our e-mail "in" basket this weekend with over 150 requests for us to share this story. OK, fine. Perhaps you have had a chance to read about, or even hear some of the incredible (truly defined: not credible) comments spoken at a recent Village of Oak Brook (IL) financial sub-committee meeting. You can listen to it below. You'll hear stuff such as **"the only way the firefighters will understand is if we FIRE the FIRE FIGHTERS one at a time. Bring them in, FIRE them"...** **"TAKE OUT 1 Fireman a Month" ... "Firemen are street people...they ONLY understand civilized force" ... "FIRE THEM"**

Lovely. Could your FD be next?

The specific issue being discussed is related to the cost of fire protection, the FF's contract, pensions, stuff like that. Stuff that especially now, during tough economic times, has gained a lot of attention in many areas, but not quite like in Oak Brook. The one person speaking is a citizen/attorney/bully filled with half truths, mis-information, anger and bitterness. My Mom (Mrs G) would call him "a real Prince". In this case, a Prince with a very subjective axe to grind against the Firefighters, and his community. He is an angry man who is the head royalty of a neighborhood association who uses his tactics to effectively bully elected officials into do what HE is says is correct, right and accurate. Alotta towns, cities and villages have some folks like that. **And a lot more showing up these days.** Speaking of "Mrs G", my Mom lives in Florida and her "Condo President" (Think Seinfeld) was one of those types. Squeaky wheel, screaming, half truths, threatening, abusing his "power" and always bullying, Sorta like THIS: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JfaO3A-m13Q>

It is important to understand that elected officials who don't have all the facts (or don't want them) often listen to folks like that, and bow down to folks like that. It's easier than actually getting, knowing or acknowledging the facts or standing up to the bully. Pretty typical human stuff, like it or not. Politicians sometimes listen to folks like that, **so that "The Prince" doesn't turn on THEM next.**

To understand the situation in Oak Brook, you have to understand the village. It is a very affluent community where the homeowners do not pay any property taxes. The village is supported by business taxes, shopping taxes and other NON-residential expenditures. But money is tight. and the Fall newsletter from the village also calls for overhauling of the police and fire pensions. Not unlike in MANY areas of the USA these days. But in Oak Brook, they do not want to pay property taxes. And look, understand that "The Prince" isn't JUST angry at the Firefighters, he also dislikes little children and apparently anyone else who doesn't smile, bow down and agree with him. Recently, after a child spoke before Council in support of libraries, Prince Charming publicly ripped the kid so bad, that the kid started

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crying. And now if they would just FIRE the OB Firefighters one at a time, he would again be satisfied. Of course, he also feels (and says, listen below) that if he had a heart attack he has "no doubt" that the OB FF's would not help him. Moron. Don't you know FF's help EVERYONE? Even bully's, bad guys, crooks, attorneys, whoever. FF's have a history of helping everyone, no matter what. The only way the OB FF's would NOT help The Prince is if he is successful in getting them fired. Then they cannot help.

Look, some of you may agree with cuts, some may not. Personally, I hope the Oak Brook FF's are successful in sharing the FACTS (especially on the staffing issue) with the elected officials and the community instead of listening to (and bowing down to) the Prince. As we have said before, and as you know, the FIRE/EMS Department really does NOT matter, until you need them-and then, you need them 5 minutes ago, you want "lots of them" and you want THE BEST. Like an insurance policy, it is what you are willing to pay up front that determines the service you get when you make the call. You can take the risk by getting cheap insurance and hope nothing happens. And the same works with the FD, it's kind of a "see me now or see me later" situation. The Prince of Oak Brook is intentionally blind to that fact. And rest assured, if significant cuts are made that affect response times and levels of service, the elected officials will be responsible. Not The Prince. That Prince is a smart one, after the fact.

And a quick word about pensions. Firefighter pensions should be different than more typical "civilian" careers with no risk and exposure. From the environment we operate in to the hours worked, the job is different, has proven to be different and should be considered when it comes to pensions. Below are the details on Oak Brook from both Dave Statter and Bill "The FireGeezer" S. They have all you need to know about Oak Brook. And while there may be some unique circumstances in that village, if there was ever a time for the FIRE service (everywhere) to EDUCATE the public and elected officials so they truly understand THE FACTS, it would be now. In almost every town, city or county, there are PRINCES popping up. And as the economy DOESN'T improve for so many in the US and Canada, there are more and more PRINCES showing up each and everyday.

HERE are the details thanks to Bill S, Firegeezer: <http://tinyurl.com/2c6p7wd>

If the AUDIO link above doesn't work, try Dave's:

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

NOTE: We post most LODD funeral details on our home page. Check there for the Ohio and Virginia LODD's of this past weekend.

Take Care,

BillyG

The Secret List 9-27-10 / 0755 Hours

AND:

OHIO FIREFIGHTER LODD-MEDICAL EMERGENCY IN QUARTERS

It is with deep regret that we advise you of the Line of Duty Death of Firefighter Robert Hall, 57, of the Lynchburg Joint Fire and Ambulance, Highland County (East of the Cincinnati area, near Hillsboro). FF Hall died this evening after falling ill during apparatus checks at the firehouse. He was transported by ALS but went into cardiac arrest while enroute. As always, our most sincere condolences.

Take Care-Be Careful.

BillyG

The Secret List 9-27-10 / 2316 hours

AND:

Hey,

As you may/may not realize, Firefighters are exposed to potentially **dangerous levels of ultrafine particulates at the time when we are least likely to wear our SCBA**. Because of this, researchers believe we may face an increased risk for heart disease from exposures during firefighting and overhaul. In a study conducted collaboratively by the University of Cincinnati (UC), Underwriters Laboratories (UL) and the Chicago FD, researchers have found that more than 70 percent of particulates released during fires are "ultrafine," invisible to the naked eye but able to be inhaled into the deepest compartments of the lung.

CLICK HERE for more details: <http://tinyurl.com/2wfa2hj>

NIOSH LODD REPORT: Probationary FF Killed, FF Injured-Dwelling Fire

A Firefighter/Paramedic died in the Line of Duty and a FF/Paramedic was injured earlier this year when caught in a residential structure flashover.

HERE is the final report: <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/reports/face201010.html>

OHIO FIREFIGHTER LODD LEADS TO QUESTIONS ABOUT EQUIPMENT SAFETY?

As you know. McArthur (OH) FF Ryan Seitz, 26, died in the Line of Duty Friday night when a pressurized tank on an apparatus blew up and struck him while he was operating at a brush fire in Ross County. "It was a metal tank; it was in a Humvee," said Ross County Sheriff George Lavender Jr. "It's a pressurized tank to force the water out. The air pressure going in forces the water out and the end cap blew off and struck the firefighter that was killed." The Sheriff along with others are investigating FF Seitz' death, including the possibility of equipment failure. A currently un-named fire equipment distributor was urging departments using air-powered systems to stop using them until the investigation is complete. The company later took down the warning after it learned questions remained about the LODD, but issued a statement that said, "If you have any doubt about whether you have equipment that may not meet American Society of Mechanical Engineers standards, you should check it out because that can be dangerous." We will provide more details on FF Seitz' death and the question about the equipment very soon. Related **VIDEO HERE**: <http://tinyurl.com/2fhn2nf>

TIRED? DRIVING FIRE APPARATUS or EMS UNITS?

-Working on a unit that goes non-stop in a 24 hours or similar shift?

-Have no time for a break, meals or genuine rest because your EMS unit or apparatus is **THAT** busy?

-Have to make "quick" decisions such as drug administering? Tactical decisions? Steering? Stopping?

-Staying up late at night playing video games, watching TV or doing other stuff instead of resting for the next run?

-Working a regular job and then on call at your volunteer FD, making runs all night long, and then back to work in the morning?

Sounds like some FD and EMS units.

Did you know that if you have been awake for 24 hours, you perform at the same level as someone who has a 0.10 percent blood-alcohol content, high enough to qualify as a drunk driver in all 50 states? That awakening fact is according to studies conducted in Australia, Switzerland, Austria, England and other countries. **HERE IS MORE:**

http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/39214056/ns/us_news

Get some rest. Seriously. Of course, it may not be that simple.

SEAT BELT SAVE IN VERMONT

A member of Grand Isle Rescue (VT), while responding Sunday morning on a run, drove off an embankment, rolled his Chevy Blazer and landed near the waterfront. The driver, Corey Hoyt, 34, was wearing a seat belt and suffered some bruising. The truck was totaled. EMT Hoyt said he was speeding and looking at his radio when he failed to navigate a turn in the road, but is here to talk about it. How 'bout that.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 9-28-10 / 2130 Hours

AND:

Hey,

The USFA is reporting that 90 on duty firefighters from 33 states lost their lives as the result of incidents that occurred in 2009. Pennsylvania experienced the highest number of fatalities (8). In addition to Pennsylvania, only New York (7), North Carolina (6), Louisiana (5), and Texas (5), respectively, had five or more firefighter fatalities. **The entire report is BELOW.**

This compares favorably to 2008's firefighter losses where 9 states experienced 5 or more on duty fatalities. The total number of fatalities in 2009 was one of the lowest totals in more than 30 years of record. "Over the past ten years alone, the trend shows a 14 percent reduction in on duty firefighter fatalities but we must continue every effort to be sure that when it comes to firefighter health and safety, everyone goes home," Acting United States Fire Administrator Glenn Gaines said. The unique and specific objective of Firefighter Fatalities in the United States is to identify all on duty firefighter fatalities that occurred in the United States and its protectorates during the calendar year and to present in summary narrative form the circumstances surrounding each occurrence.

An overview of the 90 firefighters that died while on duty in 2009:

- The total break down included 47 volunteer, 36 career, and 7 wildland agency firefighters.
- There were 6 firefighter fatality incidents where 2 or more firefighters were killed, claiming a total of 13 firefighters' lives.
- 16 firefighters died in duties associated with wildland fires, compared to 26 such fatalities in 2008.
- Activities related to emergency incidents resulted in the deaths of 57 firefighters.
- 30 firefighters died while engaging in activities at the scene of a fire.
- 15 firefighters died while responding to or returning from 13 emergency incidents in 2009. This compares to 24 responding/returning fatalities in 2008.
- 10 firefighters died while they were engaged in training activities.

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- 14 firefighters died after the conclusion of their on-duty activity.
Heart attacks were the most frequent cause of death with 39 firefighter deaths.

For 33 years, USFA has tracked the number of firefighter fatalities and conducted an annual analysis. Through the collection of information on the causes of firefighter deaths, the USFA is able to focus on specific problems and direct efforts toward finding solutions to reduce the number of firefighter fatalities in the future. This information is also used by many organizations to measure the effectiveness of their current efforts directed toward firefighter health and safety. The National Fallen Firefighters Foundation, which worked closely with USFA on this report, also maintains a list of firefighters who die in the line-of-duty and are honored during the annual National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Weekend, which is this coming weekend.

REPORT: http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/downloads/pdf/publications/ff_fat09.pdf

USFA PRESS: <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/media/press/2010releases/092910.shtm>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL,

BillyG

The Secret List 9-29-10 / 1339 Hours

AND:

Hey,

Numerous media sources are reporting that the House of Representatives today approved legislation to provide billions of dollars for medical treatment to Firefighters, EMT's, Police Officers, related rescue workers and residents of New York City who suffered illnesses from breathing in toxic fumes, dust and smoke at ground zero. here are details from various sources. The vote was 268 to 160, with 13 Republicans joining Democrats in support of the bill. Republicans raised concerns about the \$7.4 billion cost of the program.

HOWEVER: The bill's fate is unclear in the Senate. Republicans have enough votes to filibuster the measure, and Senate Democrats have not shown great interest in bringing the measure to the floor.

The bill aroused impassioned debate, as 9/11 responders and their relatives watched from the House gallery. The vote occurred as Congress moved to finish its legislative business quickly and adjourn this week to allow lawmakers to head back home to campaign before the Nov. 2 elections. The bill calls for providing \$3.2 billion over the next eight years to monitor and treat injuries stemming from exposure to toxic dust and debris at ground zero. New York City would have paid 10 percent of those health costs. The bill seeks to set aside \$4.2 billion to reopen the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund to provide compensation for any job and economic losses. In addition, the bill contains a provision that would have allowed money from the Victim Compensation Fund to be paid out to anyone who receives payment under the pending settlement stemming from lawsuits that 10,000 rescue and cleanup workers filed against the city. At the moment, anyone who receives a settlement from the city could not receive compensation from the fund, according to the bill's sponsors. Until now, Congress has appropriated money on an annual basis to monitor the health of people injured at ground zero and to provide them with medical treatment.

There are nearly 60,000 people enrolled in a variety of health-monitoring and treatment programs related to the 9/11 attacks, according to the sponsors of the bill. The federal government provides the bulk of the funding for those health programs. The bill's supporters have been demanding that the government institute a more permanent health program for 9/11 responders, fearful that annual appropriations are subject to the political whims of Congress and the White House. But such a program has been opposed by many Republicans, who raised concerns about creating a new federal entitlement to provide health benefits at a time when the federal government is running a massive budget deficit

On the floor, Representative Joe Barton, a Republican from Texas, who opposed the bill, argued that it was unnecessary given the fact that Congress had created programs like Victim Compensation Fund. After noting that compensation fund has made billions of dollars in payouts, Mr. Barton said the bill would add the burden of a new entitlement program on taxpayers. "We want to help the victims," he said. But the bill's supporters argued that the nation had a moral obligation to help workers who risked their lives to respond to the crisis at ground zero. "The 9/11 responders have received a lot of awards and praise, but they tell me that what they really need is health care," Representative Carolyn B. Maloney, a Democrat and one of the bill's chief sponsors. Known as the James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act, the bill bears the name of a New York City detective who participated in the rescue and recovery efforts at ground zero for about three weeks after the Sept. 11 attack.

He died in January 2006 after he developed symptoms common to first responders, including difficulty breathing and flulike symptoms. But the cause of his death became the source of debate after the city's medical examiner concluded that his death was not directly related to the 9/11 attacks. Representative Lamar Smith, a Republican from Texas, who described the bill as an "irresponsible overreach," seized on the controversy surrounding Mr. Zadroga's death, saying: "This bill is deceptive, starting with its title." The vote on Wednesday was the second time this year that the House took up the 9/11 health bill. In July, Democratic leaders brought the bill to the floor under special rules requiring a two-thirds majority to pass it. A majority of the lawmakers in the chamber supported the bill, but the vote in July fell short of the two-thirds margin needed.

At the time, Democrats were concerned that a vote under normal rules requiring a simple majority would have allowed Republicans to propose a controversial amendment that sought to deny 9/11 health benefits to illegal immigrants. The amendment would have likely divided Democratic support for the original health bill into two camps: moderates who might feel political pressure to deprive illegal immigrants of such benefits and liberals who flatly oppose the Republican amendment. Let's see what happens next.

Take Care, Be Careful,

BillyG

The Secret List 9-29-10 / 1609 Hours

AND:

FIRE APPARATUS HONORING FALLEN FIREFIGHTERS: <http://tinyurl.com/243jja8> (More Below)

Hey,

A Mitchell (Illinois) Firefighter was injured at the Tri-City Speedway in Granite City. Around 2200 Hours last night, the Firefighter went onto the track to extinguish a race-car fire and then another race-car struck the Firefighter. The Firefighter was air-lifted to an area hospital with fractures and related NLT injuries.

OHIO COUNCILMAN TO FIREFIGHTERS: BUY YOUR OWN EQUIPMENT.

This is a video from Xenia (Ohio) and demonstrates some emerging attitudes toward firefighter safety. The Fire Chief is very cost conscious, but it shows that no matter how some attempt to educate the elected city hall dwellers, sometimes they simply just don't care. It is very clear in some of their voices. Lots of "prejudice" here resulting in negative attitudes. They also recently laid off FF's, creating what will probably become a FD that initially will only be able to operate defensive, until more help arrives. **HERE** is the video:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2s-eceTeFaA&feature=youtube_gdata_player

RELATED UPDATE FROM ILLINOIS:

Once again, Oak Brook Illinois' "favorite son" Connie Xinos took center stage at the Village of Oak Brook public meeting on Tuesday night and made follow-up comments similar to those he made at a September 22 Citizens Finance Advisory Committee get-together. **Xinos warns firefighters that unions are not really welcomed in Oak Brook and that they better realize that or they will be replaced by a private contractor. He again says that if concessions are not agreed to by firefighters that the Village should start firing one firefighter each month.** The comments from Mr. Xinos come at about the 24:00 mark. It is well worth watching this on Dave Statters site, to get the full impact of Connie Xinos' opinion:

<http://tinyurl.com/2cm2p8q>

IF YOU ARE NOT IN OR ON YOUR WAY TO EMMITSBURG-

Today and tomorrow the Nation pays tribute to 105 firefighters who have died in the line-of-duty. And thanks to the fire service web community and some general news sites more people than ever will get to see the ceremonies this weekend. This year we have more than tripled the number of sites planning to carry the Candlelight Service tonight at 6:45 PM EDT and the Memorial Service tomorrow at 9:30 AM EDT. This year, the memorial service will pay tribute to 80 firefighters who fell in the line of duty in 2009 and 25 additional firefighters who died in previous years. The Foundation website www.firehero.org contains information about the event, including how you can view the ceremony from your homes or firehouse.

ALSO CHECK OUT <http://statter911.com> for numerous videos and related links to the activities. Over 5,000 fire service officials are expected to attend Sunday's ceremony. The ceremony will begin at 10:00 am (EST) and include a reading of the names of the 105 who will be honored and the unveiling of the memorial plaque. Hope to see you here, or if you cannot make it, please check out the LIVE service broadcasts.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 10-2-10 / 0956 Hours

AND:

NY EMS CHIEF DIES IN THE LINE OF DUTY-ON A RUN

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

It is with deep regret that Broome Volunteer Emergency Squad and the Broome County Office of Emergency Services have advised us of the Line of Duty Death of Chief Karen Hand, AEMT-CC this morning. Karen was the Chief of the Broome Volunteer Emergency Squad, and lost her life to sudden cardiac arrest this morning while on a run. In addition to her 17 years of service with BVES, Karen was Captain of the Lisle Fire Company EMS First Response Team, has served as a Deputy EMS Coordinator with the Broome County Office of Emergency Services for the past 20 years, and was a member of the Southern Tier CISM Team. As always, our sincere condolences.

MICHIGAN FATAL RESPONDING CRASH UPDATE:

Yesterday, that crash in Montcalm County (MI) killed a woman after a first responder rescue unit that was responding to a double-fatal crash a few miles away. It was that initial crash that killed 2 people which put Montcalm County Emergency Services rescue Lt. Richard Wayne Pierce, 70, on the road and responding to the scene. According to cops, Pierce's rescue truck was going north with its lights and sirens activated, when it went through a stop sign and collided with an eastbound car, killing a passenger in the car. "He never stopped at the stop sign," says witness and nearby resident Dan Bennett. "He crushed that car."

Michigan State law allows drivers of emergency vehicles to "proceed past a red or stop signal or stop sign, but only after slowing down as may be necessary for safe operation." The state law in question also allows drivers of authorized emergency vehicles to drive in excess of speed limits "so long as he or she does not endanger life or property."

Killed was a 61-year-old passenger and 74 year old car's driver was critically injured and taken by helicopter to the hospital. Montcalm County Rescue's Pierce received injuries that were not life-threatening. The Montcalm County Prosecutor's Office is reviewing this crash to see if criminal charges will be filed.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL

BillyG

The Secret List 10-6-10 / 1048 Hours

AND:

A WORD OF THANKS to everyone who worked so hard for this weekends very successful National Fallen Firefighter Memorial Service. To see the all the activities click **HERE:** www.FireHero.org

=====

Hey,

A Los Angeles man who was DUI was killed today when he slammed into a stopped/blocking Los Angeles County FD engine company on the 105 Freeway. Delaron Hines' 2011 Toyota slammed into the back of the engine that had stopped in the third eastbound lane to help put out a vehicle fire. Mr. Hines' car failed to stop to avoid a collision, crashed, was then was taken to the hospital where he was declared dead at 0339 hours but thankfully no Firefighters were injured.

AND IN EDMONTON, CANADA:

A fiery crash near Valleyview did so much damage to one vehicle that police can't tell what the vehicle was or how many people were killed when it crashed with an oilfield fire apparatus. The two vehicles struck head-on on Highway 43 around 0700 this morning east of Grande Prairie. The Firefighter driving the five-ton cube van, outfitted with firefighting equipment, survived the crash as he was forced to cut himself out of his seatbelt to get out of the wreck. He was not hurt but due to the severity of the crash and a subsequent fire, police are still unable to confirm the vehicle type and number of occupants connected to that second vehicle.

ARREST IN PA DEATH THREAT AGAINST A FIREFIGHTER: "Get out of the car. I'm going to kill you"

A 2 car crash involving a Willow Grove Fire Co. SUV escalated to assault when the driver of the other car punched out the window of the SUV and threatened to kill the Assistant Fire Chief. Robert Snowden-Mosby, 24, of Philadelphia, was charged with aggravated assault, simple assault, terroristic threats and related offenses following the Monday night incident. Assistant Chief Brian Focht of the Willow Grove Fire Co., sustained cuts to his face, head, left elbow and right leg as a result of the shattered window. Chief Focht drove to a nearby police officer, who brought the allegedly irate Snowden-Mosby under control by threatening to shock him with a Taser. **MORE HERE:** <http://tinyurl.com/2fqc4qs>

FIRE SERVICES CUT AS CITY BUDGETS SHRINK-MUTUAL AID ALSO NOW A FACTOR

Below is a piece of interest. In addition to covering East to West cut issues, but it also identifies that when some areas cut, other areas are making in clear that mutual aid must be mutual. Check it out HERE:

<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=130018464>

CANADIAN FIREFIGHTER PUNISHED FOR LOWERING FLAG TO HONOR 9/11

A British Columbia Firefighter who wanted to honor the sacrifice of the Firefighters killed in the 9/11 terrorist attacks has been punished for lowering the Canadian flag outside his firehouse to mark that anniversary. The City of Langley confirmed that disciplinary action had been taken against the firefighter, whose name has not been released. They do plan to work together in the future so this doesn't happen again. **MORE HERE:** <http://tinyurl.com/2dmewux>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL,

BillyG

The Secret List 10-3-10 / 2231 hours

AND:

Hey,

A rescue unit responding to a fatal crash in Montcalm County (MI) was itself involved in a second, also fatal, crash late this morning. The Montcalm County Emergency Services rescue unit was heading north on Kendaville when it broadsided an eastbound car at 104th. The passenger in that car was killed, and the driver was hurt. One person was hurt in the rescue unit. The rescue unit was responding with lights and sirens activated when it broadsided the other vehicle, which was traveling east. Police have not said who was at fault, we will post updates on our home page. Montcalm County Emergency Services operates 5 Advanced Life Support (ALS) ambulance transport units, 5 medical first response rescue units, 5 heavy extrication vehicles and 1 confined space rescue in a combination system.

NTSB OFFERING OUTSTANDING TRAINING FOR FIRE, EMS & POLICE FIRST RESPONDERS

The National Transportation Safety Board is offering an excellent 3 day course, "Transportation Disaster Response - A Course for Emergency Responders," at the NTSB Training Center in Ashburn, Virginia (near Washington, D.C.) on November 16-18, 2010. Case studies will include:

- * Crash of Colgan Air Flight 3407, Clarence Center, NY
- * Collapse of the I-35W bridge in Minneapolis, MN
- * US Airways Airbus crash landing in the Hudson River
- * Parking Garage Collapse in Hackensack, NJ
- * WMATA Red Line Metro Crash in Washington, DC

The complete course description, agenda, and information on the registration process and the cost are available at: http://www.nts.gov/Academy/CourseInfo/TDA402_2010.htm

A MUST HAVE BOOK:

As we start to approach the holidays, we'll share some book ideas, for Firefighters to get themselves, or for others to get you. And this first one is OUTSTANDING: Fire Officer and professional illustrator 9and long time TSL member) Paul Combs' new book, Drawn by Fire, is way more than a collection of 156 fire service editorial cartoons. Through his amazing artwork, Paul, a career Fire Officer and award-winning illustrator, (whose cartoons you have seen many, many times) delivers powerful messages that help us all remember the seriousness of the greatest job in the world. Paul's fresh perspectives touch on a wide range of topics, safety, training, politics, leadership, Brotherhood, diversity, 9/11, and offer a mirror for recognizable, impactful glimpses into the fire service.

CHECK OUT Paul's "Drawn by Fire" at <http://www.pennwellbooks.com/drawnbyfire.html>

NOTE:

If you know of a new fire service related book that would be worthy of mention here as a holiday gift for Firefighters, let us know and we'll check it out.

ANOTHER ONE STRUCK AND KILLED BY A DRUNK DRIVER REST IN PEACE DR. GARY PURDUE, A FRIEND TO FIREFIGHTERS, BURN VICTIMS & 9/11 VICTIMS

A motorcycle crash has claimed the life of a Univ of Texas Southwestern professor and world-renowned burn injury specialist. The expertise of Dr. Gary Purdue helped many victims of the September 11th attacks. Dr. Purdue, 65, was riding his motorcycle early yesterday morning in Dallas when his bike was struck by a DUI car around 0730. Dr. Purdue was pronounced dead at Parkland Memorial Hospital, the same hospital where he has been director of the nationally recognized burn unit for the past 22 years. The car's driver, 24-year-old Justin Heaton, was charged with intoxication manslaughter. In 1998, he was recognized as Physician of the Year for his outstanding commitment to the healing process. In the days after September 11, when air traffic was shut down across the country, Purdue organized a much-needed delivery, sending a shipment of skin replacement to New York City to treat those burned in the attacks. Just a few years away from retirement, he leaves behind

his wife, Laurel, of 32 years, three children, and a grandson. **They wanted to make sure other families knew that Dr. Purdue was wearing a helmet and pads at the time of the fatal accident. R.I.P.**

Take Care-BE CAREFUL,

BillyG

The Secret List 10-4-10 / 1447 Hours

AND:

CALIFORNIA FIREFIGHTER DIES IN THE LINE OF DUTY

ILLINOIS FIREFIGHTER DIES IN THE LINE OF DUTY

INDIA FIREFIGHTER DIES IN THE LINE OF DUTY-NUMEROUS FIREFIGHTERS BURNED

=A Sacramento (CA) Metro Firefighter who was hospitalized on October 3rd after going into a cardiac arrest while operating at a golf course structural fire, has died in the Line of Duty this morning. The 20 year member went into cardiac arrest while battling a blaze at the Haggin Oaks Golf Course on October 3rd. The firefighter was transported to Mercy San Juan Hospital for treatment where he succumbed.

=The Assistant Chief of the Hindsboro (IL) FD has died in the Line of Duty earlier this week. Assistant Fire Chief Thomas Innes responded to an emergency medical call. After the call was completed and the patient was transported, Chief Innes went back to the station, readied the equipment, and then returned home. Shortly after returning home, Chief Innes became ill and was taken to a hospital where he passed away.

=A 59-year-old New Delhi (India) Firefighter who was to retire next year died in the Line of Duty at a factory fire, which was operating illegally. Firefighter Nand Kishore Tiwari was amongst the first due companies. 21 other Firefighters suffered varying degrees of burns. The illegal factory in the residential complex stored chemical drums which caught fire, starting in the basement. When the FF's forced entry, there was a reported smoke explosion, killing the 1 FF instantly. FF Tiwari is the first Delhi firefighter to die while at work after 2004, when 8 FF's died in West Delhi. The Delhi Fire Service has 2,500 members. Our sincere condolences to all affected by these recent losses.

THAT TENNESSEE HOUSE FIRE?

THE ONE IN THE COUNTY THAT DOESN'T WANT TO FUND A FD.

VISA, AMERICAN EXPRESS OR MASTER CARD COULD BE THE ANSWER.

With our goal to be the last in the universe to comment on the house burning down in Tennessee (the FD didn't put it out), we probably should be successful. Actually, heavy traveling the last 2 weeks is the reason for the delay. Houses burning down and FD's not putting the fire out is also nothing new. Subscription FD's are nothing new and people's homes burning down without the FD putting it out is nothing new, it's just news once again. It's ridiculous, but not new.

To be clear, any FD on any scene should generally put the fire out. In this case, we think the FD should have put it out, and then billed them for all the costs or just figure it all out later. However, there is a lot more to this. Keep in mind, with the economy and related politics (some places using the economy as an excuse to lose FF's even though they can fund them,

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and others that do have genuine fiscal problems) stuff is going to burn down. Even with great funding, stuff burns down. But to have a fire company arrive and not put it out, as some wrote "it's shocking". Sorta. I mean, can you imagine if you forgot to pay your insurance bill and then filed a claim? Would the insurance company insure you and handle it later? Ask the Gecko. See what he says. The point is that FD's cost money-and the elected officials of that county DO NOT WANT to fund a FD and haven't for years. THEY DO NOT WANT A TAX FUNDED FIRE DEPARTMENT and apparently the taxpayers don't either-at least not as a whole, otherwise, they would tell their elected officials "yes". But it's "no". Word is that the Fire Chiefs of Obion County have worked for many years to offer the county elected folks a proposal of a fire tax or have them just fund the 8 municipality fire departments, a reported \$360,000 total, to provide ALL residences of the unincorporated areas of the county, a fire service. **However the elected county commission refuses to force a tax on their citizens.**

We were also advised that the homeowner (who lost his house) was sent 3 letters reminding him of his fire dues, and after that they called him 3 times and each time he said he would pay, but after the third phone call the FD dropped his name off the list. They still should have put it out. Of course, little did we (us) know that the FD subscription was set up 20 years ago because someone's house outside a city limits burned, and the city wanted to provide service to those residences (where there is no other fire service) so the subscription service was started to help. City taxpayers did not want to fund a free FD for non-taxpaying residents, outside their city. No one does.

Bottom line: If a FD shows up at or near a fire, put it out (that helps save exposures) or don't respond. An archaic system on "some get, some don't" based upon billing is a whole lot different than the rest of North America (and some nations) are used to. However, if the elected officials do not want to fund a FD, it's their choice. If the residents care, they need to speak up, vote, join up or never forget to subscribe. Maybe the FD should have a credit card system, where the residents get billed annually, automatically, unless they choose to opt out. Just imagine the ad: "Your Fire Department, We're Everywhere You Want To Be" Fire departments cost money, career or volunteer and those who want a FD need to pay, one way or the other.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 10-7-10 / 0915 Hours

AND:

Hey,

At 20:02 hours last night, the Kern County (CA) Fire Department responded to a vehicle crash involving one of Kern County Fire Department's own ladder trucks. An additional 17 Kern County firefighters responded to the incident. The crew of Truck 41 from Virginia Colony provided immediate assistance to the victims of their accident. Upon arrival, additional crews were faced with a vehicle that had struck the ladder truck head on while traveling on Hwy 178. The ladder truck, which is based in east Bakersfield was returning from a previous incident in Kern Canyon heading west bound when the crash occurred. Two persons in the car were declared deceased by Paramedics on scene. No injuries were sustained to the Firefighters in the ladder truck.

October 20, 2010

www.chabotfire.com

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Take Care-Be Careful,
Billy G
The Secret List 10-10-10 / 0210 hours

AND:

Hey,
This morning in Philadelphia, an ambulance was involved in a fatal crash. A car slammed into the ambulance and burst into flames on Broad Street at 66th Avenue and the civilian driver of the car was killed. The 70-year-old patient and medic in the back of the ambulance were injured in the wreck as well. Those men, and the 24-year-old medic driving the ambulance, are being treated at the hospital. We'll post more details on our EMS page as we get them.

Take Care-Be Careful
Billy G
The Secret List 10-9-10 / 0745 hours

AND:

EMS LODD AT DOUBLE FATAL EMS CRASH IN ILLINOIS

It is with deep regret that we advise you that a crash in West Union, Clark County (IL) has killed EMT Richard Poorman, 52, in the Line of Duty, patient Stephen Daugherty, 45 and critically injured others. EMT Bill Crumrin with West Union EMS was driving the ambulance, transporting a patient and another EMT, Richard Poorman. A pickup truck entering from a side street slammed into the ambulance. Both the patient and EMT Poorman were thrown from the vehicle. Poorman was transported to Memorial Hospital in Crawford County where he was later pronounced dead in the Line of Duty. The patient was airlifted to another hospital. That patient's condition is unknown at this time. Stephen Daugherty who was in the pickup truck was airlifted but was also pronounced dead. A second person in Daugherty's pickup truck also had to be airlifted to an area hospital. As always our sincere condolences to all affected.

**ALSO IN ILLINOIS YESTERDAY:
=CHICAGO BATTALION CHIEF HURT IN CRASH:**

A Chicago Fire Department battalion chief responding to a call was injured in a crash. Yesterday just before 2300 at the intersection of Fullerton and Pulaski, when the battalion Chief had another vehicle crash into him. Doctors treated him at Illinois Masonic Hospital where he was last listed in fair condition. Two other people were also hurt, but their injuries were not considered serious.

=7 FF'S TRANSPORTED FROM HAZMAT INDUSTRIAL FIRE:

A chemical plant caught fire early Saturday morning and was still burning as of late Saturday night and it was visible for more than 20 miles away. It all started just before 0600 at the Euclid Chemical Company in rural Sheffield, Illinois. 22 fire departments, 7 ambulance services, and 3 haz-mat teams responded. 7 Fire fighters were sent to a nearby hospital after having troubles breathing. The wind carried the plume of smoke and spread it several miles wide, they had to let the building burn.

MARYLAND FIREFIGHTER FALLS OUT OF RESPONDING APPARATUS

A Volunteer "red hat" Firefighter (probationary who rides but cannot operate interior) from Prince George's Fire-EMS, Chapel Oaks VFD, fell out of Engine 838 while they were responding to a reported building fire this afternoon. The Firefighter was not wearing a helmet or bunker coat but thankfully has suffered only NLT injuries. Apparently the apparatus was a Seagrave with some claiming it is an historic door latch issue, but, odd's are, the use of a seat belt would have prevented the problem of the FF falling out, door latch problem or not.

BOSTON WORKING FIRE, RESCUE HISTORY:

A Great Story About a Victim (and Victims Rescued) At A Working 3 Decker Fire:
<http://www.thebostonchannel.com/news/25338438/detail.html>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 10-10-10 / 2028 Hours

AND:

CANCER RELATED LODD-Anchorage Alaska Firefighter Dies in the Line of Duty

After nearly 14 years on the job, Firefighter/Engineer Andy L Mullen worked his last shift at the Anchorage FD on April 8th of this year at Rescue 4. Andy was diagnosed with cancer that was determined by the AFD to have been directly linked to exposure on the job. Andy passed away last night in the loving company of his family and AFD Brothers and Sisters. Andy was a proud member of the AFD and AFD FF's Union, IAFF Local 1264 and their Exec. Board. He leaves a wife and 3 daughters. Andy's hallmark activity was time spent with his children. His parents reside on Long Island, New York in the same house that Andy was raised in with his brother and sister. This is the first Line of Duty Death that the Anchorage Fire Department has experienced since Firefighter Chuck Whitethorn lost his life in 1976.

MORE DETAILS Will Be Posted HERE: <http://www.iaff1264.com/> Additional Information related to FIREFIGHTER CANCER: www.FireFighterCancerSupport.org

TRAINING NOT TO MISS:

**FIREFIGHTERS & SMOKE TRAINING SEMINARS IN INDIANA AND NEW JERSEY
(PLEASE CHECK THESE OUTSTANDING SEMINARS OUT)**

http://www.firesmoke.org/images/waynetownshipss_2010.pdf (Indiana)

<http://www.firesmoke.org/images/bergenss.pdf> (New Jersey)

FIREFIGHTERS TRAPPED AND RESCUED IN NORTH DAKOTA:

Yesterday a multi-alarm fire at an apartment complex was a close call for Fargo (ND) Firefighters. They had two firefighters trapped and had to rescue them on the third floor, but all FF's made it out safely. **HERE** are videos and related details:

<http://www.grandforksherald.com/event/article/id/178940/>

<http://www.valleynewslive.tv/#tvq>

<http://www.valleynewslive.tv/artman2/publish/facebook/21423.shtml>

FATAL AMBULANCE CRASH IN NORTH CAROLINA-EMT SERIOUSLY INJURED

A Catawba County EMS truck was on a routine patient transport yesterday when a Ford Escape traveling east crossed the center line and hit the ambulance head on at 1330 Hours.

The driver of the Ford Escape, 67-year-old Patrick Salmons, was pronounced dead at the scene of the wreck. EMT/driver Nathan Turner was pinned inside the vehicle and had to be airlifted to CMC-Main. He is reported to have serious injuries. Salmons did have prior medical conditions, and that may have caused the wreck.

SAN DIEGO FIRE APPARATUS DROPS IN HIGHWAY HOLE

SDFD Truck 10 was driving back to quarters after a call last night and had to transition some steel plates covering open trenches. Unfortunately, for reasons not clear at this point, the steel plate shifted and the truck tandem and plate fell into the hole. Luckily the fall was only a few feet, and the right rear outrigger caught the weight of the truck from falling any further. The front of the plate bent upward, striking the right front outrigger plate and the muffler. Needless to say they came to an abrupt stop. Luckily, no one was hurt. Outrigger plates are being straightened, muffler/tailpipe repaired, and the rest of the truck inspected for any other damage. The plate did not hit any critical underbody structures or systems. HERE are some pictures: <http://www.cbs8.com/Global/story.asp?S=13308941>

WE HAVE MORE photos posted on our home page.

=UPDATE: FIRE CHIEF STILL ON VENT AFTER SERIOUS BURNS:

Dauphin Island Volunteer Fire Chief, Brad Cox, is still in serious condition. He was badly burned last Monday fighting a fire that burned four homes to the ground on the East end of Dauphin Island. Cox was still on a ventilator yesterday at USA Medical Center. But, we spoke to his father, Bill Cox, about how the chief is doing. The good news is Cox is expected to make a full recovery. The Dauphin Island Foundation has set up a fund for all the firefighters who were injured in last Monday's fire. You can donate to The Firefighters Fund by mailing a check to P.O. Box 946, Dauphin Island, Alabama 36528.

=UPDATE FROM EMS CRASH IN MONTCALM COUNTY, MI-ANOTHER VICTIM DIES

Yesterday another person has tragically died as a result of his injuries sustained in the crash with Montcalm (MI) EMS Response Vehicle. Max Young, 64, died from injuries he sustained in the accident. Young was driving the car that collided with a Montcalm County Rescue Unit as it was on its way to the scene of another crash. A passenger in Young's car, Shirley Narloch, 61, died instantly at the crash. Authorities believe the driver of the rescue unit, Richard Pierce, failed to yield at a stop sign and hit the car.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 10-12-10 / 1624 Hours

AND:

Hey,

The surviving widow of Buffalo FD Lt. Charles W. "Chip" McCarthy Jr. filed a lawsuit in NY State Supreme Court yesterday against the City of Buffalo, the Mayor, the former Fire Commissioner and the owners of the building where her husband died in the Line of Duty at the below fire (See NIOSH Report Below) in August 2009. Her Attorney, Thomas H. Burton said that while a "significant" monetary penalty is expected against all the defendants, the main intent of the suit is "hopefully to enable the city to avoid another coffin on a fire truck" by toughening city codes and fire scene protocols. **Attorneys representing the family**

of Firefighter Jonathan S. Croom, who also died in that fire, are planning to file a similar suit.

Mr. Burton said the lawsuit, which cites alleged code violations at the now-destroyed building, "will also serve as a wake-up call to business owners who don't follow all applicable building and fire codes." In addition to accusing the building owner of numerous building and fire code violations, Mrs. McCarthy's suit accuses the city of improper inspection of the building and the BFD of inadequate firefighting safety procedures. The suit further accuses the city of failing to enforce a so-called "2 In, 2 Out Rule" and failing to always have an "accountability or safety" officer on duty at the scene of a burning building to keep track of firefighters entering and leaving the structure. The suit also accuses the Fire Department of failing to enforce the so-called the "buddy system during interior firefighting operations."

HERE is the NIOSH Report on that fire:

<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/reports/face200923.html>

NOTE: This is just another of several lawsuits recently filed toward fire officers of EVERY rank, not just Commissioners or Chiefs but Company Officers (Sgt's, Lt's and Captains) and Training Officers as well.

FIRE SERVICE LEGAL CONCERNS?

CHECK OUT: <http://firelaw.typepad.com/fire-law/> That's Chief Curt Varone's blog with the latest "fire law" information. Curt will be joining us along with Fire Chief/Attorney Chip Comstock this year at FDIC on Monday (3-21-11) for the workshop:

"Fire Fighter and Fire Officer Survival: Why Things Go Right and Why Things Go Wrong"

MORE HERE: www.FDIC.com

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 10-14-10 / 0911 Hours

AND:

Hey,

We have posted the updated budget review/staffing page for those interested in a jurisdiction by jurisdiction review of issues related to budget cuts, staffing cuts, brownout etc. The below link is the latest update, October 2010. When you open it up, scroll down to where it says **OCTOBER 2010**. The details prior to that are editorial as well as guidelines for FD's on what they should consider (or be warned of) when facing fiscal cuts. Additionally, the details in red are the most recent updates. Click Here: <http://www.firefighterclosecalls.com/staffing.php>

FDNY 23rd Street FIRE "REMEMBERING 12 FIREFIGHTERS"

Yesterday was the anniversary of the 23rd Street Fire that took place on October 17, 1966. Firefighters from the FDNY responded to a fire at 7 East 22nd Street entered a building at 6 East 23rd Street as part of an effort to fight the fire. Twelve members of every rank, from a probationary firefighter to a deputy chief, made the Supreme Sacrifice when the ground floor of the store collapsed. The fire originated in a basement storage area, which was concealed by a four-inch thick cinderblock wall illegally constructed by the building's previous owner. It was the largest loss of life in the department's history until the collapse of the World Trade Center in the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. R.I.P. **MORE HERE:**

http://www.nyfd.com/history/23rd_street/23rd_street.html

UNUSUAL FIRE DEPARTMENT VIDEO: FOLSOM PRISON FIRE DEPARTMENT

We have always had an interest in any and all FD's, but also a real interest in "not-so-common" FD's. Some of those include college and university, Federal, industrial, Indian Nation, remote island, prison, seasonal, specialty as well as other unique and different fire departments that are out there doing the job, but not always as well known. **We recently were sent a video of the Folsom Prison FD, that is staffed by inmates.** Check out the video: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1VD6HFHTFzw&feature=youtube_gdata_player

AND if you are interested in NON-FDNY FD's that served (and some still serve) within the City of New York, check out John Calderone's "They Also Served" : <http://www.fire-police-ems.com/books/bt3211.shtml>

FIRE TRUCKS VIDEO:

LASTLY, as stated, with the holidays approaching, we will occasionally pass along some ideas for Firefighters. Primarily, we are focusing on books as gifts such as Paul Comb's amazing new, full color "DRAWN BY FIRE" book:

<http://www.pennwellbooks.com/drawnbyfire.html>

We also want to pass along another outstanding idea. It's a VIDEO for kids (of all ages) who love fire apparatus. This video is probably the best collection of apparatus in one video that we have ever seen and it's inexpensive. Check out "Lots and Lots of Fire Trucks"

<http://www.marshallpublishinginc.com/lots-and-lots-of-fire-trucks--bonus-audio-cd.html>

If you have any book or related ideas for FIREFIGHTERS, please pass the links along and we'll check'm out.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 10-18-10 / 1911 Hours

AND:

2 BRITISH COLUMBIA (CANADA) PARAMEDICS KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY-CRASH INTO WATER

The Ambulance Paramedics of BC has advised us that 2 Paramedics are were killed in the Line of Duty when their unit went off Highway 4 and into Kennedy Lake on the West Coast of Vancouver Island. While initially a rescue operation, it is now a reported recovery. Both paramedics were veteran members of the BC Ambulance Service. A shore search of Kennedy Lake on the West Coast of Vancouver Island failed to turn up any sign of the 2 paramedics missing and now presumed drowned after their ambulance plunged into the water early this morning. The ambulance went down a 200' embankment and is in 30' of water, and the rough terrain made rescue, and now, recovery, very complicated. The ambulance left West Coast General Hospital at 0430 hours this morning after transporting a patient from the community of Tofino. At 0930 hours Port Alberni RCMP received a call that the BC Ambulance dispatcher could not reach the 2 Paramedics in the ambulance. A highway worker noticed damage to trees adjacent to the highway, and further spotted the ambulance in the water. As always, our sincere condolences.

We expect more to be posted HERE: <http://www.bcas.ca/> and/or HERE: <http://www.apbc.ca>

WALL COLLAPSE AT GEORGIA BUILDING FIRE INJURES FIREFIGHTERS

2 DeKalb County Firefighters were hurt by a falling wall at a fire today at a Stone Mountain apartment complex. 1 Firefighter was taken to Grady Memorial Hospital and the second went to Atlanta Medical Center. Firefighters were initially told that people may be trapped inside the three-story Liberty Landing Apartments.

VIDEO STUPIDITY AND MORE FAILURE OF TRUST (NOT TO MENTION THE LEGAL ISSUES)

At a time where (for a variety of reasons) Firefighters need the support and trust of Firefighters, we lose out again. By now, you have hopefully heard about the graphic video of a young woman who was killed in a crash and her final moments, filmed by an on-duty Spalding County (GA) Firefighter at the scene who posted it on the Internet. We have no doubt he regrets it now, but consider the damage, the laws, and the potential civil suit for damages. In short, last July, the parents found out that their 23-year-old daughter had died in a serious car crash, in which her SUV flipped on a Georgia road and crashed into trees. Naturally, the couple were thrown into unbelievable life long grief, but months later, their grief reached new levels when they were emailed a video of their child's crash scene. A relative had seen the video posted online and felt he needed to forward it to her father.

On the video, a Firefighter can actually be heard reacting to the scene, saying, "Hold that down for me. That's really bad. Oh my God." According to the local Spalding County Sheriff's office, a Firefighter filmed the scene with his personal cell phone and took it to a bar where he shared it. The video spread online, and eventually made its way back to the victims family. The family says the video even catches one Firefighter asking another to help him create better lighting for the video. **The family further questions that if the FF had time to take video, could they have better spent that time saving her life? A valid question.** Officials in the area are investigating but according to the current laws on the books, the video may not be illegal because the Firefighter was using his personal cell phone and did not purposefully release the video to the press. **Well-that depends.**

A few quick thoughts:

- Generally, it is better to just not photograph any scene you are working on or assigned to.
- Determine what your FD policy is, because:
- You may not necessarily have the right to photograph or video anything when on duty.
- In some states, a Firefighter using personally owned equipment (cell phone etc) while in the line of duty, no longer has personal rights to the equipment, the pictures or video-it becomes public property, and is then subject to public and media requests.**
- Never photograph victims. Ever. Never. Don't.
- Only photograph what you are authorized to by the IC, by policy, and based upon state and local laws.
- Turn over any authorized videos or photos to your OIC so they may be used for Firefighter training purposes.

The public trusts us, more that ANY other public agency. When things like the above occur, it not only hurts those involved and their family members, but it affects the publics trust of

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

Firefighters anywhere. **MORE** on this issue and related ones here from Dave Statter:
<http://tinyurl.com/23mdg6r>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 10-19-10 / 2141 Hours

AND:

NY Firefighter Killed In The Line Of Duty While Responding

We regret to advise you that a Ghent (NY) Firefighter died in the Line of Duty in a crash on Route 66 while responding to an emergency call last night. 52-year-old William Akin, a member of the Ghent Volunteer Fire Company, was responding to a crash his company had been dispatched to, in his personal vehicle, a 2001 pick-up truck. While driving to the scene, FF Akin struck a utility pole at an intersection and power lines and part of the power pole came down on top of FF Akin's vehicle. FF Akin was extricated by members of his own Ghent Fire Company and the Chatham FD and was taken to the hospital, where he was sadly pronounced dead. There were no other injuries, and no one else was in the vehicle with FF Akin at the time of the crash. Investigators are still looking into why Akin ran off of Route 66, including the possibility of a medical problem. The original call for the crash FF Akin was responding to turned out to be less serious. You may think of the Ghent FD as being familiar. It was in the Ghent FD of West Virginia that killed 3 FF's at a store gas explosion a few years ago. No connection. As always our sincere condolences.

Take Care-Be Careful.

BillyG

The Secret List 10-20-10 0637 hours

AND:

Hey,

Tragic news from Baltimore City this morning. At 0955 hours Engine 8 responded to Franklin and Calhoun Streets for a medical emergency. The company arrived and was unable to locate a patient; however there was a film crew on location and Engine 8' crew inquired of their observation of a patient in the vicinity. It was at that time that E 8 was rear ended by a Baltimore City police vehicle traveling at a high rate of speed. The police car suffered extensive damage that caused life threatening injuries to the police officer. He was treated on the scene and transported to Baltimore Shock Trauma for further evaluation and treatment of his injuries. The trauma team performed an aggressive trauma assessment. Unfortunately due the serious injuries he was pronounced dead in the Line of Duty at the Trauma Resuscitation unit. The E-8 Firefighters suffered only minor injuries and immediately went to work extracating and treating the officer from the police car. The officer was a well known friend to the members of E-8. As always our sincere condolences.

Take Care-Be Careful.

BillyG

The Secret List 10-20-10 / 1330 hours

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

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

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

Budget Related Items:

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

Proposed new building inspection fees would save three Long Beach (CA) firefighters' positions downtown, but "rolling brownout" station closures are still on the table. Fire Chief Alan Patalano presented the inspection fee proposal Monday afternoon to the City Council's Budget Oversight Committee. A \$20 per unit fee would be applied for required annual fire inspections of residential buildings, hotels and motels with three units or more. That would generate about \$500,000 annually, Patalano told the committee. The money would be used to save three positions at Fire Station 1 downtown. Under City Manager Pat West's "Plan A" cuts to help eliminate an \$18.5 million general fund deficit, the station was to lose nine firefighter positions and an engine. However, the extra building inspection revenue won't impact the deeper "Plan B" cuts, which are to be implemented if employee associations don't agree to pay freezes. In most cases, none of the labor groups appear likely to reach a deal with the city. In the Fire Department, Plan B cuts would mean rotating closures of fire stations, permanently eliminating one fire engine from service:

http://www.insidebayarea.com/ci_16067256

Riverside County (CA) is close to receiving \$2 million in financial relief from Cal Fire, a move the county's top administrator said will help bridge the fire department's \$5.5 million budget gap. The county contracts with the state agency for fire protection and for months has been concerned about the administrative fee Cal Fire charges. A report in July concluded the county could save as much as \$2.8 million if Cal Fire changed how it accounted for support personnel and overtime:

http://www.pe.com/localnews/stories/PE_News_Local_D_calfire21.27c4b39.html

If an Emergency Medical Services renewal levy fails again, Fire District 7's (Clearview, WA) paramedic program and ambulance transport services will be cut to make up for lost revenue. Fire stations will randomly "brown out" on a day-to-day basis as there won't be enough personnel or overtime pay available to staff all seven stations in FD7's coverage area, district officials said. "This budget doesn't allow for flexibility," he said. "But it doesn't include layoffs." No layoffs for now, that is. In 2011, however, Eastman said he will have to look to laying off about 40 people in order to balance the district's budget:

<http://www.enterprisewspapers.com/article/20100915/ETP03/709159864&template=ETPZoneEDart>

Forest Grove (OR) and Cornelius (OR) explore sharing fire chiefs- With city revenues nearly flat and cost of employment rising, city leaders look at creative ways to fill a retirement at the end of the year:

http://www.forestgrovenewstimes.com/news/story.php?story_id=128457337249223000

The Gary (IN) Fire Department is among the departments expected to take a big hit next year. Its budget will drop from \$12.8 million to \$10.8 million, based on a draft. That cut includes the loss of as many as 37 firefighters, slashing the workforce there from 231 employees to 194: <http://www.post-trib.com/news/lake/2726272.qbudget0919.article>

A firehouse in the Marin (CA) Headlands will likely begin being phased out by the end of next week. The Golden Gate National Recreation Area is eliminating the Presidio Fire Department, which will include the closure of Station 52 at Fort Cronkhite. The station and its personnel: http://www.marinij.com/marinnews/ci_16135860

A deal that would give Oceanside firefighters a pay raise but require them to start paying some of their pension costs was approved Wednesday by a sharply divided City Council. The contract would give firefighters a 2.5 percent raise but require them to pay 4 percent of their salaries toward pension costs. The annual base salary of an average firefighter under the new contract would be \$79,380 with total annual compensation of \$119,820, according to figures from Human Resources Director Brian Kammerer. "This is a very good first step toward pension reform," Council Member Sanchez said. In two years when this contract expires, Sanchez said, she will push for firefighters to assume more of their pension costs. Lowery expressed similar sentiments, praising the firefighters for concessions he said would save the city more than \$1 million annually:

http://www.nctimes.com/news/local/oceanside/article_6b24d6d7-3212-587f-9d23-04f891beecab.html

Oregon State agencies, school districts and local governments will receive two years' worth of bad news on Friday, when the Oregon Public Employees Retirement System board votes on employer pension rates for the upcoming 2011-13 biennium. The rates are expected to more than double as a result of investment losses PERS suffered during the market downturn:

<http://www.statesmanjournal.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=20089230337>

A push to eliminate the 10-member full-time fire department and rely on on-call firefighters instead is raising hackles in a northern Vermont town that has had a professional fire department for nearly a century. It's about money, according to Nancy Cohen, 67, author of a petition circulating around St. Johnsbury. "People feel that their tax dollars in this economy are being frittered away and not spent cautiously by the department," she said Friday, after presenting the more than 250 signatures to the town clerk to get the proposal on the Nov. 2 ballot:

http://www.boston.com/news/local/vermont/articles/2010/09/17/vt_town_debates_on_call_vs_full_time_fire_service/

The Colton (OR) and Molalla fire district boards have agreed to work together to save money for residents of their respective districts. Colton Interim Fire Chief Richard Beaudoin said the Colton and Molalla boards want to explore whether they can share resources to avoid duplication and save money. He said the districts also may be able to form partnerships to seek state and federal grants together. "In the tight-money times we're in right now, all the districts -- especially the smaller districts -- are just struggling," Beaudoin said. "The only way we're going to get by is to go in together whenever we can." Beaudoin said the districts will immediately examine whether they can share training officers or recruitment functions for volunteers:

http://www.oregonlive.com/clackamascounty/index.ssf/2010/09/colton_molalla_fire_districts.html

Atlantic City (NJ) prepares to cut 93 jobs — including 40 police officers and 30 firefighters — after negotiations stall:

http://www.pressofatlanticcity.com/news/top_three/article_37d36a32-ca66-11df-b776-001cc4c002e0.html

The Contra Costa County (CA) Fire District expects to deplete its reserves by next fiscal year and is eyeing a June parcel tax to right its financial ship, the fire chief said Tuesday. Without the added revenue, the county's largest fire department will face "draconian cuts to fire service," Chief Darryl Louder said. As part of the chief's corrective-action plan presented to supervisors Tuesday, he proposed closing a Pittsburg fire station, using \$8.7 million in reserves, deferring \$4 million in workers' compensation and researching a parcel tax. The board, acting as the Contra Costa Fire District Board, approved all the actions, except the station brownouts. Originally, the chief recommended closing four stations, with each dark station saving the department about \$1.6 million. However, Louder said he found the public safety risk too high and instead recommended 1.5 station closures, which he said would put the district's fiscal picture at "pretty critical levels."

http://www.sgvtribune.com/california/ci_16198083

The city of Spokane (WA) is sending layoff notices to 116 employees. The notices went Friday to 65 employees of the police department, 13 in the fire department and people in other departments:

<http://www.thenewtribune.com/2010/10/01/1364624/spokane-sends-116-layoff-notices.html>

Officials talk about possible marriage between Humboldt County (CA) fire departments (Eureka, Arcata, Humboldt Fire District #1) in wake of budget crisis:

http://www.pasadenastarnews.com/california/ci_16303126

El Mirage (AZ) officials will continue to study whether to rehire five firefighters, although finances will play a major factor in the decision. Last month, former City Manager B.J. Cornwall resigned amid criticism from the City Council and community about a decision to lay off firefighters who, he said, the city could no longer afford. One firefighter has been rehired by El Mirage, while two others are serving voluntary positions in Afghanistan, leaving the others without a job. They continue to sit and wait to hear if they will be retained by the city. Tom Jury, who represents El Mirage as part of the Northwest Valley Firefighters Association, said, like other Valley job seekers, firefighters are also having a tough time finding full-time or part-time work:
http://www.yourwestvalley.com/localnews/article_0c9658ea-cd7a-11df-b6f6-001cc4c002e0.html

Eight Long Beach (CA) fire stations will be affected by "rolling brownouts" starting today. Although none will technically be closed, one station will lose a fire engine on a rotating basis each day, fire officials said Thursday. The eight stations will each still have either an ambulance, a ladder truck or both on duty, officials said. "We look to see if that facility has multiple units assigned to it, because we are trying to avoid making a station completely empty," Deputy Fire Chief Jeff Reeb said about how the brownout stations were determined:
http://www.mercurynews.com/ci_16221564?nclick_check=1

This year's assessed property values were bad news for the Gig Harbor (WA) Fire Department, which is making a long list of cuts and budget plan alterations in response. No services will be cut, but in preparation for the reduced revenue that the department had already anticipated, a fire inspector has been laid off and will not be replaced, said Deputy Fire Chief John Burgess. A report from the county's assessor treasurer has predicted a 9.4 percent drop in assessed value for the Gig Harbor area, which will mean roughly \$1.5 million less in revenue over the coming year:
<http://www.thenewstribune.com/2010/10/06/1370813/fd-5-grapples-with-low-revenue.html>

Phoenix (AZ) Fire Department officials are asking the federal government for \$6.8 million to hire 42 firefighters by next year, before the city's hiring freeze could begin to affect response times. City officials argue they need money to meet minimum staffing requirements to maintain the four-man crews residents rely on to respond to medical emergencies, house fires and other critical incidents. Phoenix Fire has an authorized force of about 1,750 positions, though it is currently working with 154 vacant sworn positions due to attrition, fire officials said. The city last hired firefighters in 2008. A year ago, Phoenix applied for the same Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response grant, known as SAFER, when it faced about \$19 million in cuts. But it didn't receive the grant. "As that money runs out, our only other option is to apply for or acquire the SAFER grant, or shut down another engine company, in addition to those that have been furloughed," Khan said. Union concessions, job furloughs and projected revenue from the city's 2 percent sales tax on groceries helped prevent firefighter layoffs:
<http://tucsoncitizen.com/arizona-news/2010/10/06/phoenix-fire-department-asks-feds-for-6-8-million/>

The union representing Santa Barbara (CA) city firefighters tentatively agreed to cuts valued at 5.5 percent of their salary, saving the City of Santa Barbara \$726,000 the first year and another \$420,000 the second year. In exchange, City Hall has agreed not to shut down a fire station for the next two years. It has also agreed to maintain existing staffing levels: <http://www.independent.com/news/2010/oct/07/firefighters-agree-cuts/>

San Diego's (CA) fire chief Tuesday outlined \$7.2 million in proposed cuts for fiscal 2011-12 that could result in the sidelining of additional fire engines and laying off firefighters. The city faces a projected deficit of \$72 million in the coming year. Jay Goldstone, the city's chief operating officer, asked police, fire, park and recreation and library officials to cut \$75 million in spending in case a half-cent sales tax increase on the November ballot doesn't pass. In response, fire Chief Javier Mainar recommended eliminating staffing for a seasonal firefighting helicopter, instituting "brownouts" for five additional engine companies and laying off up to 60 firefighters: <http://www.10news.com/news/25293624/detail.html>

Camden (NJ) will lay off more than 150 police officers, 77 firefighters, and about 150 other employees unless the mayor can wrest concessions in union contracts in the coming days, according to union officials and employees> In a meeting with police, according to several officers in attendance, Mayor Dana Redd touched on the two available options to avoid major layoffs: 26 furlough days and a 10 percent pay cut, or no furlough days and a 20 percent pay cut. Under either arrangement, extra pay for accumulated years of service, working off-hour shifts, and buying uniforms would be eliminated. Firefighter Pete Perez, head of the Public Safety Committee of the International Association of Fire Fighters Local 788, said the mayor was looking at 77 layoffs of rank-and-file firefighters, along with 27 demotions of officers: <http://www.firehouse.com/news/top-headlines/new-jersey-city-could-layoff-77-firefighters>

Redding (CA) firefighters say after months at the bargaining table, they're done trying to negotiate. The President of the Firefighters Association, Lonnie Schreiber, told KRCR News Channel 7 his members made a \$1.7 million dollar concession offer to the city of Redding, which was rejected. This week, the city made a counter offer, which the union rejected. Firefighters submitted their same concession offer again, and again, the city rejected it: <http://www.krctr.com/news/25321807/detail.html>

Big cuts are looming for the Cincinnati (OH) Fire Department. WLWT has learned that the city wants to slice almost \$11 million from the fire budget in the weeks ahead. Having already absorbed several million dollars worth of reductions, rank-and-file firefighters are worried that deep personnel cuts will arrive before the holidays. Sources told WLWT that the Fire Department may be able to make \$2 million in spending cuts, but it would still need to make up an additional \$9 million. That could result in about 150 firefighter layoffs. There could also be further fire station brownouts, like the ones that have been occurring since August 2009. Currently, there are two to three fire companies that close daily. Under the new projections, that number could rise to 10: <http://www.wlwt.com/news/25352293/detail.html>

St. Louis (MO) City officials intend to announce within the next two weeks that they will cut between 30 and 60 firefighting positions, the first firefighter layoffs in recent history, and potentially close two city firehouses. The firefighters union presented an offer to the city Monday, after months of discussions, to reduce pension costs temporarily while cutting disability pay by retraining injured firefighters in other careers, according to union leaders. But a city official with knowledge of the negotiations said the union proposal was unlikely to cut deep enough to satisfy city leaders' concerns about the department's future. City staffers intend to calculate how many firefighters the city would have to lay off to balance this year's budget and prepare for booming pension costs to come:

<http://www.firehouse.com/news/top-headlines/st-louis-threatens-lay-60-firefighters>

Houston's (TX) new fire chief has more than fires to put out, as City Hall has dispatched him to contain a \$10 million budget shortfall sparked by overtime and termination pay for retiring firefighters. Chief Terry Garrison, sworn in less than 30 days ago, is exploring ways to reduce expenditures without laying off firefighters. He said the Houston Fire Department needs to trim \$5 million in overtime and contend with another \$5 million in accumulated sick leave payments for an undisclosed number of fire personnel expected to retire later this year. Garrison said proposals under discussion include transferring 10 to 40 administrative staff to fire stations to reduce overtime. Other measures on the table are cutting the 18 paramedic response squads to 11, and moving firefighters to other duties while their stations are closed for scheduled remodeling and maintenance. He said a last resort would be "brownouts," or furloughs at some of the city's 92 stations that could mean temporary closures of fire halls:

<http://www.firehouse.com/news/top-headlines/houstons-new-fire-chief-faces-budget-blaze>

Phoenix (AZ) will not hire any new police officers or firefighters until the summer of 2013 to balance public-safety funds that have been running a deficit because of the recession. Funds from three voter-approved sales-tax increases dedicated to paying for police and fire ended the 2009-2010 fiscal year with an \$18.4 million shortfall, city officials said:

<http://www.azcentral.com/12news/news/articles/2010/10/13/20101013phoenix-not-hiring-police-firefighters-until-summer-2013.html>

The FDNY is on the verge of permanently slashing manpower at dozens of the city's busiest fire companies - setting the stage for a war with the fire union. The controversial staffing change could be coupled with a major change in FDNY scheduling, altering firehouse culture and raising the ire of rank-and-file firefighters. In a letter obtained by the Daily News, city Labor Relations Commissioner James Hanley wrote to Cassidy and informed him that the current staffing agreement between the FDNY and the union will expire at the end of January. When that happens, the number of firefighters on 60 engines will be cut from five to four, the city said. The other 183 engine companies already have four firefighters. "Most engine companies have operated with four firefighters since 1996," said mayoral spokesman Jason Post:

http://www.nydailynews.com/ny_local/2010/10/14/2010-10-14_firefighters_see_red_on_schedule_staffing_changes.html

Faced with a \$67 million budget hole next year, Mayor Mike McGinn wants to cut overtime pay for battalion chiefs in the Seattle Fire Department, where one chief earned \$71,000 extra in pay last year. McGinn's 2011 budget proposal would reduce a staffing requirement that sets how many chiefs must be on duty every day. By reducing that requirement from seven to six, the mayor's proposal would avoid 255 overtime shifts per year and save just under \$600,000:

http://www.seattlepi.com/local/428305_salary13.html

Two years ago, with the city of Chico (CA) facing a \$6 million structural deficit, the city's firefighters agreed to forego their raises for two years and decrease starting salaries to meet the city's need to balance its budget. Now, with Chico forced to make \$6.7 million in budget cuts over the next two years as a result of the recession, the firefighters are positioned for 4 percent raises in 2011 and 2012 — at the same time City Manager Dave Burkland is seeking 5 percent wage reductions from all city employees. Chico Fire Chief Jim Beery said based on preliminary numbers, the department is anticipating that three to four firefighters will be laid off if concessions are not agreed upon: http://www.chicoer.com/fromthepaper/ci_16345904

Three El Mirage (AZ) firefighters who lost their jobs in August of 2010 could find themselves back to work in the next few weeks if their union agrees to \$253,000 in concessions, which could include furloughs and the loss of paid holidays and uniform allowances: <http://www.azcentral.com/community/surprise/articles/2010/10/18/20101018el-mirage-may-rehire-firefighters.html>

Los Angeles (CA) city officials unveiled a pension reform plan for new police officers and firefighters that could potentially save the city millions of dollars. Employee pensions take a big chunk of city funds, so the city of Los Angeles hopes to reduce those expenses as it looks for ways to save money. This proposal would affect newly hired police officers and firefighters. It would require them to work longer and pay 2 percent of their salary into the pension fund in order to qualify for health care as part of their retirement benefits. The plan would save the city \$173 million for every one thousand (1000) new hires in the city of Los Angeles police and fire departments: http://abclocal.go.com/kabc/story?section=news/local/los_angeles&id=7730618

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.

For months, Commissioner Steve Sisolak has accused Clark County (NV) firefighters of “gaming” the [sick-leave system](#) as a way to bolster one another’s overtime pay. Now, he said, he has proof. “I don’t know what else you can call it,” Sisolak said. “They learn this stuff as young firefighters and keep doing it.”

<http://www.lasvegassun.com/news/2010/sep/11/sisolak-sick-leave-gaming-exposed/>

A judge who ruled the FDNY's written exam blocks out minorities will let 300 probies be hired from a tainted test under a deal he admits sounds like racial quotas. Judge Nicholas Garaufis on Monday gave the city until noon Friday to select one of several hiring procedures spelled out in his 27-page order. He had temporarily barred the city from hiring the probationary firefighters from Exam 6019 after ruling it discriminated against nonwhite applicants the same way two previous exams he deemed illegal did:

http://www.nydailynews.com/ny_local/2010/09/14/2010-09-14_compromise_lets_fdn_y_bring_on_300_probies.html

The trustees of the Firemen's Retirement System of St. Louis (MO) sued the City of St. Louis today following cuts to firefighter sick leave. In the suit, the retirement board argues that laws passed last month by the city board of aldermen and mayor seek to limit the accumulation of sick leave, and contradict state law. This summer, the city moved to change laws that allowed city employees, including firefighters, to cash out half their accumulated sick days when they retired and use the other half to build up years of service and final pay, which would boost their retirement payouts. City administrators said that the cut could eventually save \$400,000 a year:

<http://www.firehouse.com/topics/careers/st-louis-firefighters-sue-city-over-sick-leave>

For the second time this year, results of an exam to promote Atlanta (GA) firefighters have been compromised. This time, it wasn't accusations of cheating; the city said its own test format was improper: <http://www.wsbtv.com/news/24996982/detail.html>

The Lewiston (ID) Fire Department has begun to bill insurance companies following fuel spills, drawing criticism from the city's police chief along the way. Lewiston Fire Chief Gordy Gregg said the city is trying to recoup costs from its response to traffic accidents that release automotive fluids. The person responsible for the accident is liable for that cost, he said. "The idea is that because those automotive fluids are spilled out, the responsible party is liable for those," Gregg said. But Gregg and Police Chief Steven Orr exchanged terse e-mails last month about the plan. The Tribune acquired the e-mails through a public records request. "There may be some justification, but based upon the information you have provided, I feel this is an unethical attempt to bilk insurance companies and our citizens for services that are already provided by LFD via tax-based funding," Orr told Gregg in the e-mail:

<http://www.firehouse.com/news/top-headlines/idaho-fire-dept-policy-irks-police-chief>

A new report finds some firefighters in San Joaquin County (CA) take more than four minutes just to get out the door during an emergency. The national standard is 60-seconds: <http://cbs13.com/local/san.joaquin.firefighters.2.1942876.html>

Clark County (NV) Firefighters union officials and Clark County leaders traded the latest barbs Monday as they prepare for arbitration. The county and its firefighters union have been stalemated for six months and aim to resolve their dispute in an arbitration hearing set for early November. County officials have said from the start they would take a tougher stance with the firefighters union than they did in past contract negotiations when rapid growth pumped up tax revenues. Times have changed since the firefighters' last contract was sealed four years ago. An economic slump has mired the county in a two-year budget crunch that could worsen next year if state lawmakers dip into local coffers to help offset an estimated \$3 billion state shortfall: <http://www.lvrj.com/news/firefighting-labor-rift-continues-102842829.html>

A Las Vegas (NV) area ambulance company is disputing claims that no ambulances were available to cover medical emergencies. According to two local unions representing firefighters, that's exactly what happened. But the ambulance company in question says that's just not true. A news release was sent out on behalf of the firefighters unions in Las Vegas and North Las Vegas with the headline "Southern Nevada Residents had no Ambulance Service over the Weekend." A claim AMR and subsidiary MedicWest say is a lie:

<http://www.8newsnow.com/Global/story.asp?S=13147081>

Just about everyone has thought about playing hooky from work, but calling out sick has cost one Allentown (PA) firefighter his job. Richard Gawlik, Jr. was recently fired for calling in sick four consecutive days in August and playing golf on three of them, and then posting his golf scores on the internet:

<http://www.wfmz.com/lehighvalleynews/25009080/detail.html>

Police have arrested a member of the Piermont (NY) Fire Department after he and two teenagers were accused of exposing themselves to a 16-year-old at the firehouse in August. Michael Bettman, 29, of Sparkill and two teens have been charged with endangering the welfare of a child, a misdemeanor; and second-degree harassment, a violation, after exposing themselves to the 16-year-old male and telling him to touch their genitals, police said. The incident took place at the Piermont Firehouse about 9 p.m. Aug. 14. Bettman is a lieutenant with the all-volunteer department and is listed as the sixth-ranking officer on the department's website:

<http://www.lohud.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/201009140230/NEWS03/9140343>

A Key Peninsula (WA) Fire battalion chief has been fired after an incident this summer at an annual conference in Wenatchee during which an underage volunteer allegedly got drunk and flooded a hotel bathroom. He's the [second firefighter from the department to be fired over the incident](#). In August, Fire Chief Tom Lique terminated 20-year-old volunteer firefighter Tim Nelson for his part in the episode at a Wenatchee hotel in June. At the time, Lique also disciplined a battalion chief, volunteer lieutenant and an office employee for not putting a stop to the young man's drinking and for not disclosing what happened to fire district management. Chief Bosch was fired Tuesday for his role in the incident and his later attempt to conceal what happened from the department's administration, according to a press release:

<http://blog.thenewstribune.com/crime/2010/09/16/second-key-peninsula-firefighter-fired-over-wentachee-conference-incident/>

- And another related story:

<http://www.thenewstribune.com/2010/09/22/1352178/battalion-chief-fired.html>

A former Clark County (NV) Fire Department captain caught allegedly trying to lure young girls for sex through Craigslist ads pleaded guilty today in U.S. District Court, the Department of Justice said. Martin Vohwinkel, 56, of Las Vegas, pleaded guilty to one count of using a facility of interstate commerce to coerce and entice a minor for sex, a charge that carries a 10-year mandatory minimum prison sentence and lifetime supervised release, officials said:

<http://www.lasvegassun.com/news/2010/sep/15/former-fire-captain-pleads-guilty-child-sex-crime/>

The suspended fire chief of the Illinois River Area (OK) Volunteer Fire Department was in district court Tuesday and pleaded not guilty to charges of actual physical control, court records show. Jonathan Ash, 41, is now set to appear in front of Special District Judge Holli Wells during an Oct. 21 misdemeanor-traffic docket. Ash was arrested by Oklahoma Highway Patrol Trooper Joe Couch Aug. 26 at around 11 p.m. on State Highway 10. Ash was driving an IRAVFD truck to a fire call, and was intoxicated, according to Couch:

<http://tahlequahdailypress.com/local/x721417379/Suspended-fire-chief-pleads-not-guilty>

The city of New York (NY) rejected a federal judge's proposals to hire 300 new firefighters, claiming all of the options were illegal racial quotas. The decision Friday was a virtual line in the sand that could delay any new FDNY hires for at least a year. Judge Nicholas Garaufis gave the city until noon yesterday to choose one of five options that would allow recruits to be hired from a controversial test he said discriminated against minorities. The options ranged from a simple random drawing to hiring a class that reflected the racial demographics of the applicant pool. "Every one of the five proposals from which the court is allowing the city to select involves some form of race-based quota," Michael Cardozo, the city's top lawyer, wrote in a letter to the judge:

http://www.nydailynews.com/ny_local/2010/09/17/2010-09-17_city_rejects_judges_plan_for_new_fdn_hires_charges_proposals_enforce_racial_quo.html

A naked Washington D.C. firefighter apparently was caught on camera preparing food for a party in a firehouse. The photo was supplied to News4 by a source who says complaints have been made by female firefighters and paramedics who were there at the time. This engine company serves the Columbia Heights neighborhood. The D.C. Fire and EMS Department says there was a retirement celebration attended by off-duty firefighters there in July. A source obtained the picture and gave it to News4, telling us that it's a naked firefighter at the stove and that as many as three firefighters may have prepared and served food at the party naked:

<http://www.nbcwashington.com/news/local-beat/DC-Fire-Investigates-Naked-Cooking-Allegations-103093314.html>

Haverhill (MA) Mayor James Fiorentini has fired firefighter Jeffrey Given, calling him the "facilitator" and "bagman" in a scheme that allowed emergency medical technicians to lie about their training. The firing came after a probe by state officials said Given recruited other firefighters and collected money from them for the purpose of fraudulently obtaining state certification as emergency medical technicians:

<http://www.eagletribune.com/haverhill/x721417970/Mayor-fires-firefighter-in-EMT-scandal>

Nobody knows how deathly slow the Detroit (MI) fire department ambulance system is better than the paramedics themselves. It happens all too often in this city. You call 911. Granny fell, you tell the operator. Or a woman's been shot. Or a man has gone into cardiac arrest. Then you wait for an ambulance. And you wait some more. No one really knows what the ambulance response time is in Detroit, but for people who work in the ambulances for a living, they say it is unacceptable. One problem, according to a 2004 city audit of the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) system, is that Detroit is the only major American city that does not allow a firefighter or a police officer to aid a victim before the ambulance arrives. Another problem is substandard communication equipment. Since that report was issued, at least two hospitals have closed and the EMS system has been decimated by staffing cuts causing ambulances to drive farther:

<http://detnews.com/article/20100915/METRO08/9150444/1439/METRO08>

The people who put out fires in most of South Dakota aren't waiting at the station for the next emergency. They're probably at work, at home on the couch, or - in some cases when the timing is bad - inside a bar. Seventy percent of South Dakotans - 95 percent of the state's square miles - are served by unpaid volunteer firefighters. One of those volunteers, 43-year-old Scott Johnson of Madison, was arrested two weeks ago after he drove a fire truck to a false alarm following a work shift at a nearby bar, and possibly some drinking. He was charged with first-offense DUI. The case drew media attention and stirred emotions in the Lake County town of 6,600. But it also highlights the best and worst qualities of the volunteer model that forms what State Fire Marshal Al Christie calls "the backbone of the fire service." The loose network of about 7,500 firefighters who make up the roughly 350 recognized volunteer departments in South Dakota largely is unregulated. Each department writes its own rules and sets its own standards. There are no state training requirements for volunteer firefighters:

<http://www.argusleader.com/article/20100919/NEWS/9190331/Firefighter-dilemma-When-not-to-respond>

A federal judge is giving all sides in the FDNY hiring battle another 30 days to think about what should happen next. Judge Nicholas Garaufis issued a month-long extension to an injunction that bars the city from hiring any firefighters from the class that took the most recent entrance exam. Garaufis has ruled that the test discriminated against black and Hispanic candidates, and he gave the city several options for hiring 300 new Bravest - including a random drawing of test-takers or making sure the new hires represented the racial makeup of the applicant pool. The city refused to pick any of his proposals. Now the judge wants legal briefs from the Justice Department, the city and the Vulcan Society of black firefighters:

http://www.nydailynews.com/ny_local/2010/09/22/2010-09-22_30_days_to_eye_fdny_hiring.html

One of the latest debates in Williamsport (PA) revolves around the town's fire siren, a warning device that is so intense that one resident said it "shakes the house."

http://www.herald-mail.com/?cmd=displaystory&story_id=254680&format=html

A proposed contract with the Oceanside (CA) Firefighters Association is a bad deal for the city and will only worsen Oceanside's gloomy financial outlook, a watchdog group has warned. In a letter to Mayor Jim Wood and other City Council members, the San Diego County Taxpayers Association urged the council to vote down the contract proposal when it comes up for a final vote Wednesday. "At a time when municipalities throughout the nation are striving to reduce costs, achieve concessions from labor groups and establish long-term structural reforms, the city of Oceanside will suffer increased costs and exacerbate its structural deficit as a result of the proposed Firefighters Association contract," Taxpayer Association President and Chief Executive Officer Lani Lutar wrote. "This is the time to achieve concessions and savings, not lock the city into a contract that will exacerbate its financial crisis," Lutar wrote: http://www.nctimes.com/news/local/oceanside/article_8855143c-9673-5a9b-9765-f00962304202.html

A Firefighter at the Dulles International Airport (VA) Fire Department and former middle and high school wrestling judge was arrested Sunday on 10 counts of possessing child pornography, after fire officials accidentally discovered the materials in his Lorton row house earlier this summer:

http://firelink.monster.com/news/articles/15562-fms-investigating-fire-bust-firefighter-for-child-porn?utm_source=nlet&utm_content=fl_pl_c3_20100922_top10

Tensions between San Jose (CA) leaders and Firefighters Local 230 rose to a boil in a Sept. 15 city meeting, and Mayor Chuck Reed and Councilman Pete Constant scolded union leaders for stalling contract talks. In the last few weeks, union officials called for an investigation into whether the city council and the public knew slower fire response times would result from laying off 49 firefighters and introducing Dynamic Deployment. Dynamic Deployment essentially makes firefighters more mobile between fire stations during large emergencies. The policy also closed the infrequently used Communications Hill fire station and made Station 30 at 454 Auzerais a "posting station"--staffed only during large emergencies. Like the rest of the city's employee unions, San Jose firefighters this year had been asked to take a 10 percent cut in total compensation because the city was dealing with its largest budget shortfall in history. An agreement between the city and the union would have cut pay but spared fire department layoffs. However, a majority of Local 230 members voted against the proposal. So the city council laid off 49 firefighters this summer:

http://www.mercurynews.com/ci_16159217?nclick_check=1

When people call 9-1-1 for help, they expect emergency responders to be physically and mentally ready to perform all tasks the call requires. But when it comes to St. Petersburg firefighters, residents may wonder. The fire union opposes Mayor Bill Foster's demand that firefighters submit to random drug tests and yearly physical exams. Those are reasonable requirements that would be in the best interest of firefighters and the public:

<http://www.firefighternation.com/forum/topics/florida-union-opposes-drug>

A Collier County (FL) EMS District complaint accuses the North Naples fire district of unlicensed activity:

<http://www.naplesnews.com/news/2010/sep/24/collier-ems-north-naples-fire-complaint-carlisle/>

A purported sex party that had been scheduled at the South Lockport (NY) Volunteer Fire Hall on Transit Road for Saturday night was canceled after the fire company's board of directors learned about the plans for the event. "The swingers party will not be going forward," said attorney Steven M. Cohen, who represents the volunteer fire company:

<http://www.firerescue1.com/weird-news/articles/885530-sex-party-booked-for-NY-fire-hall-canceled/>

A federal judge has put on hold a Stockton fire union lawsuit against City Hall, ruling that separate litigation filed this summer should be resolved first. In an order issued Tuesday, U.S. District Judge Frank C. Damrell, Jr. said the fire union's two lawsuits - the first in San Joaquin County Superior Court, the second in federal court - are "substantially similar." He also cited "evidence of forum shopping" by the union. The city had accused the union of trying its hand in federal court after a setback locally. "Forum shopping" is the practice sometimes used to find a court thought most likely to provide a favorable ruling:

http://www.recordnet.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20100929/A_NEWS/9290308/1/A_NEWS03

When Curtis L. Mitchell died during February's snowstorms after Pittsburgh (PA) paramedics failed to reach his Hazelwood home, contrite Pittsburgh officials swiftly apologized, meted out discipline and pledged change. That was not enough to satisfy Mr. Mitchell's adult children and ease the pain of what one of their attorneys called the "inhumane" treatment of their father. After suggesting a \$500,000 settlement to the city and being rebuffed, attorneys for Jeremiah C. Mitchell and Theresa E. Thornton on Thursday resorted to the courts, suing Pittsburgh, Allegheny County and eight current or former emergency workers. "We aren't going to bring someone back to life. But it's about being accountable, being responsible," said Mr. Perer, who along with Paul A. Ellis, is representing Ms. Thornton. "It's inhumane, the way he was treated," Mr. Perer said during a news conference at his 25th-story office in One Oxford Centre, Downtown. "This case represented an outrageous breakdown of the entire EMS and 911 system from the very top down." The episode, in which paramedics would not wade through snowdrifts and instead asked the ailing 50-year-old Mr. Mitchell to walk to them, proved embarrassing to the city, particularly because of the attitude of some emergency workers. Several paramedics were taped making callous or insensitive remarks about Mr. Mitchell's situation:

<http://www.postgazette.com/pg/10274/1091710-53.stm?cmpid=newspanel4>

Setting up a rare public conflict with his own fire chief, Los Angeles (CA) Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa on Thursday ordered 51 Los Angeles Fire Department assistants to the front lines during this wildfire season to temporarily end reduced staffing at stations. The move would nearly return the Fire Department to full strength, after budget cuts had taken 15 firetrucks and nine ambulances out of commission last year

to save \$39 million. The firetrucks will be restored, but not the ambulances. Villaraigosa said he was concerned the city can no longer afford to keep the staff assistants and other administrative personnel on the sidelines as the city enters the brush fire season: http://www.pasadenastarnews.com/california/ci_16221602

New details about budget woes that led to the controversial layoffs of about 25 percent of the El Mirage (AZ) Fire Department are beginning to emerge after the recent resignation of embattled City Manager B.J. Cornwall. Interim City Manager Rick Flaaen told *The Republic* this week that Cornwall's decision to lay off six firefighters in August came after he discovered a nearly \$190,000 budget shortfall:

<http://www.azcentral.com/community/surprise/articles/2010/10/01/20101001el-mirage-budget-mistake-led-firefighter-layoffs.html>

Opponents and supporters of Palo Alto's (CA) Measure R took aim at each other in a public debate at the Palo Alto Art Center on Wednesday night. Both sides claimed their rivals have tried to mislead voters about details surrounding the proposed charter amendment that would lock in staffing levels for the fire department. The measure would block the Palo Alto City Council from lowering the fire department's staffing below 2009-10 levels or closing stations without first holding two public hearings and ultimately an election:

http://www.contracostatimes.com/california/ci_16276190?nclick_check=1

The City of Seattle (WA) will ask a judge for a new trial in the case of a former firefighter who claimed he was permanently disabled after falling through a fire pole hole back in 2003. The City gave the judge eleven hours of surveillance video that showed the firefighter, Mark Jones, lifting a bicycle out of his truck and other physically demanding jobs. Last October, a jury awarded Jones \$12.8 million for what he claimed were permanent disabilities that required 24 hour care for the rest of his life. The City contends the jury would have decided differently if it had seen the video shot this spring showing Jones pulling logs out of his truck, splitting firewood, playing horseshoes and setting a fence post:

<http://www.king5.com/news/local/Seattle-to-Challenge-Disability-Award-to-Firefighter-104553699.html>

Nevada Democrats are distancing themselves from labor unions this election season, signaling a shift in the relationship between the party and its longtime allies. The reasons are both political — unions have fallen in the eyes of the public during the recession — and economic — labor's pockets aren't as deep as they once were, cutting into funding for political activities:

<http://www.lasvegassun.com/news/2010/oct/12/unions-political-clout-dimmer-years-races-democrat/>

A New York judge issued a permanent injunction Tuesday barring the City of New York Fire Department (FDNY) from hiring any new firefighters until it creates a new entry level firefighter written examination that doesn't discriminate against minorities:

http://www.nydailynews.com/ny_local/2010/10/19/2010-10-19_judge_no_new_hires_until_fdny_creates_new_exam_that_doesnt_discriminate.html

A Brooklyn (FDNY) firefighter has been placed on administrative duties while the police investigate whether his sport utility vehicle was involved in a fatal hit-and-run accident early Sunday, a Fire Department spokesman said on Monday. The accident happened around 12:30 a.m. Sunday when what the police believe was the vehicle, a late-model BMW X3, struck a pedestrian at 65th Street and 20th Avenue in Bensonhurst and the driver fled the scene, the authorities said. About four hours after the accident, the firefighter, Pat Quagliariello, 39, went to the 62nd Precinct station house and told the police that he was the owner of the vehicle and that he was represented by a lawyer, the police said:

http://www.nytimes.com/2010/10/12/nyregion/12firefighter.html?_r=1

Pensacola (FL) City Manager Al Coby has ordered an independent inquiry into the outside employment issues in the Pensacola Fire Department to determine whether adjustments to city policy are warranted. The issue of moonlighting firefighters came to light as part of a criminal case against former fire Capt. Robert Sumner, who pleaded guilty to grand theft two weeks ago. Sumner worked as a contractor on the side and was accused of swindling some \$180,000 from customers. He allegedly did shoddy work, overcharged customers and did not pay subcontractors. Pensacola's Firemen's Relief and Pension Fund Board of Trustees will soon decide whether Sumner can continue to receive his pension of almost \$4,700 a month. Coby also says in his memo to the council that "no accusations have been directed at current employees." However, numerous city firefighters are making money on side jobs and tending to personal business during the 24-hour shifts they officially spend on duty, according to a sworn statement from a veteran firefighter. Pensacola Fire Marshal David Allen said in a 2008 deposition that firefighters routinely take care of non-department business while working out of a city fire station:

<http://www.pnj.com/article/20101012/NEWS01/101012001/Firefighters-moonlighting-inquiry-ordered>

WTOP Radio's Neal Augenstein has an update on the off-duty Washington DC firefighter who had his picture taken while he was cooking in the nude at the quarters of Engine 11. DC Fire & EMS Department Chief Dennis Rubin told Augenstein this incident occurred after several off-duty firefighters went to nearby bars following a retirement party at the firehouse on July 7 and then returned to the station for breakfast:

<http://statter911.com/2010/10/12/the-naked-and-the-suspended-update-on-nude-cook-at-dc-firehouse/>

A Union Township (OH) firefighter jailed in connection with a weekend bar brawl involving rival motorcycle clubs was suspended from his job earlier this year after failing a drug test, according to disciplinary records. Keith R. Gardner, 38, who remains in the Clermont County Jail in lieu of \$100,000 bail on a charge related to the fight, didn't contest the findings of the drug test or disciplinary action recommended by the fire chief, according to public records obtained Tuesday by The Enquirer:

<http://news.cincinnati.com/article/AB/20101012/NEWS010702/10130315/Firefighter-linked-to-brawl-failed-drug-test>

According to a recent survey among 1,004 adults commissioned by the nonprofit National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) and conducted by Harris Interactive by telephone in September 2010, Americans continue to have misunderstandings about smoke alarms, including how many they need in their homes, and how often they should be tested and replaced. Smoke alarms represent a key component of home fire safety. When working properly, they alert people to fire in time to escape safely, and can cut the chance of dying in a fire in half. This year's Fire Prevention Week campaign, "Smoke Alarms: A sound you can live with!", works to better educate people about the importance of smoke alarms, emphasizing newer requirements and recommendations for smoke alarm placement, installation, testing and maintenance: <http://www.nfpa.org/newsReleaseDetails.asp?categoryId=488&itemId=49169&rss=NFPANewsreleases&cookie%5Ftest=1>

A Georgia county is looking into whether any rules were violated after a firefighter took graphic cell phone video of a fatal crash that was shared with other firefighters, patrons at a bar and was later received by the father of the woman who died. Jeff Kempson tells Atlanta station WAGA-TV he doesn't understand why a firefighter would have taken the video of his daughter, 23-year-old Dayna Kempson-Schacht. An unknown firefighter later took the video to a bar and texted it to other patrons: <http://www.firerescue1.com/fire-ems/articles/895653-Ga-firefighters-video-of-fatal-crash-victim-upsets-family/>

A Lebanon (IN) Fire Department captain has admitted setting fire to his home, according to court documents. David Saulmon, 43, told investigators he set fire to a sock and dropped it onto a pile of clothes in the laundry room of his home at 1231 W. CR 300 N, Lebanon, about 11:30 a.m. Oct. 7, arson investigator Timothy Murray of the Indiana State Fire Marshal's Office said at a probable cause hearing Thursday. Saulmon is charged with arson with intent to defraud and with insurance fraud, with bond set at \$10,000. Both charges carry sentences of two to eight years in prison and up to \$10,000 in fines: <http://www.firehouse.com/news/top-headlines/indiana-firefighter-admits-setting-blaze>

A lawsuit Friday by about 30 black firefighters alleges systematic racial discrimination within the D.C. Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services, claiming that black employees face harsher discipline, are promoted less often and confront a hostile work environment imposed by white supervisors. The 31-page suit, which lawyers say was filed in U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia, contains information potentially embarrassing to the department. It refers by name to at least 10 white firefighters accused or convicted of various misconduct. It also refers to black firefighters who committed similar offenses. In a virtual rap sheet, the suit describes cases in which firefighters have been arrested for stalking, assault and illegal handgun possession; disciplined for fighting or injuring fellow firefighters with knives and plates; and investigated for e-mailing images of their sexual organs to female colleagues and cooking naked in firehouses: <http://statter911.com/2010/10/15/30-black-firefighters-file-discrimination-lawsuit-against-dcs-rubin-two-assistant-chiefs-claim-bias-in-discipline-promotion/>

Dwight C. Jackson, one of the Henderson (NV) Fire Department's highest-paid employees, is accused of evading five years' worth of income taxes, according to a federal indictment filed Tuesday in U.S. District Court. In 2009, Jackson was the 11th-highest paid city of Henderson employee with total compensation of \$280,198.57, according to <http://transparentnevada.com/salaries/henderson/> (Transparent Nevada) website. At a time when many Nevadans are scratching to survive, perhaps the only thing more embittering than a high-paid government employee is someone who thinks they don't have to pay their income taxes: [http://www.lvrj.com/blogs/smith/High-paid Henderson firefighter indicted on tax charges.html](http://www.lvrj.com/blogs/smith/High-paid-Henderson-firefighter-indicted-on-tax-charges.html)

San Marcos (CA) city officials kept secret a color-coded map showing the risk of wildfire danger to various neighborhoods for fear insurance companies would use the information to justify raising rates or dropping policies, according to a newspaper report. Officials opted to circulate a version of the map, which omitted shadings that marked Coronado Hills and neighboring Attebury deep red, signifying "extreme wildfire hazard," city leaders told the North County Times for a story published on its website Saturday. Shadings showing five other neighborhoods with "very high" risk were also left off: <http://www.mercedsunstar.com/2010/10/17/1614386/san-marcos-officials-kept-fire.html>

Orange County (FL) firefighters were so upset with new fire truck cameras that they tried to convince the state the cameras were illegal, but it didn't work. "Red light, Tony, red light! Jesus Christ, Tony!" a firefighter is heard saying in the video. Even his fellow firefighters were scared, as an Orange County firefighter blew a red light at a busy intersection going more than 40 miles an hour. Another firefighter was caught going more than 80 mph in the middle of the night as he approached a red light. Another one barely slowed down as he barreled toward oncoming traffic on the wrong side of the road. All were captured with drive cams that were installed in 120 fire rescue trucks. Twenty-one firefighters have been disciplined because of what was captured with the cameras for serious safety violations. No one has been fired. Contrary to popular belief, firefighters don't have the right to speed: <http://www.wftv.com/news/25406804/detail.html>

Miami (FL) Mayor Tomás Regalado worked for more than 8 years to see the opening of a brand-new fire station. But on Saturday, Regalado and his fellow commissioners weren't there to celebrate the dedication of Fire-Rescue Station 11. The reason: They decided to heed the request of the firefighters' union, whose members voted unanimously to ask city leaders to stay away. Firefighters, still fuming over salary and pension cuts they received as part of the city's new budget, had threatened to protest any city officials who showed up. Firefighter salaries were cut between 5 and 12 percent. But after factoring in cuts to other bonuses for education or specialized jobs, union leaders say the actual cuts are more than double. Pensions were also capped at a \$100,000 a year payout. The moves were designed to help close a \$105 million city budget hole and avoid laying off one-third of the city's workforce. But Regalado, who represented District 4, which includes the new fire station, before becoming mayor, wasn't happy. "I do resent it," he said. "At least they could have recognized that I worked many, many hours as a commissioner for that fire station. One thing has

nothing to do with another." <http://www.miamiherald.com/2010/10/17/1877201/at-unions-request-miami-leaders.html>

Positive Public Relations Items:

Provo (UT) firefighters raised \$40,000 in just one week for the Fill The Boot campaign benefitting muscular dystrophy patients:

http://www.heraldextra.com/news/local/article_61c30455-419c-5209-a475-586fb772d521.html

He describes it as a “life-altering experience.” The look in his eye as Carlos Schulz talks about the journey he took last month as a “guardian of the ribbon” on the Pink Heals Tour makes you believe it. Schulz is an engineer with the Maricopa (AZ) Fire Department, but for 12 days in August he was also a member of the Pink Heals Tour. The tour advocates for cancer awareness, spreading the word of hope, love and support for woman all over the country who are battling cancer. The Pink Heals Tour brings firefighters from across the nation together to embark on an epic 74-day national tour. They drive pink fire trucks, wear pink turnouts (the firefighter protective gear), rally support for local charities and bring comfort to the hearts of cancer survivors. Schulz participated in the first leg of the tour that started in Phoenix and traveled 2,400 miles to Chicago:

<http://www.inmaricopa.com/NEWS/NewsArticleDetails.aspx?mid1=390&&ArticleID=9038>

Eight of 24 Lawrence (MA) city firefighters laid off in July are being rehired immediately after Mayor William Lantigua and Lawrence firefighters came to a long-awaited cost-savings agreement yesterday. The Lawrence firefighters' union voted 57 to 7 to make \$241,000 in contract concessions, which include each firefighter working 24 hours overtime for free and giving up a week's vacation:

<http://www.eagletribune.com/local/x180463174/Accord-puts-eight-Lawrence-firefighters-back-on-job>

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month and to show that the Hellsgate (AZ) Fire Department is in total support of the event, the firefighters will be wearing pink awareness duty shirts:

<http://www.paysonroundup.com/news/2010/sep/24/firefighters-unite-stand-cancer/>

Long Beach's (CA) Firefighters Association has narrowly voted to forgo pay raises in 2011 to avoid "rolling brownouts" with fire stations being shuttered for a day on a rotating basis:

http://www.gazettes.com/news/article_bfc16dee-ca53-11df-8dd8-001cc4c03286.html

Manteca's (CA) reserve firefighters took a 56 percent pay cut so they could better serve the community by allowing the city to double their ranks to 20 members. “They really stepped up,” Manteca Fire Chief Kirk Waters said of the reserve unit. “They play a crucial role in our firefighting capabilities.”

<http://www.mantecabulletin.com/news/article/17275/>

Starting today, firefighters from Clark County Fire District 6 will make a bold fashion statement in a nod to Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Instead of blue, they'll wear pink. Shirts can be ordered at <http://www.fired-upgraphics.com/cancerT.html>. The pink T-shirts firefighters will wear during the first week of this month will be on sale for \$15, with \$12 going to the National Breast Cancer Foundation:
<http://www.columbian.com/news/2010/oct/01/firefighters-think-pink-breast-cancer-fight/>

Carolyn. Elaine. Heather. Karen. These are the names of the pink fire engines that are part of [Guardians of the Ribbon](#), a non-profit organization founded by Arizona firefighter Dave Graybill, to help raise awareness for the fight against breast cancer. For the 3rd consecutive year, Guardians of the Ribbon's Pink Ribbon Tour will make its only stop in Nevada in North Las Vegas as part of National Breast Cancer Awareness Month. The 2-day wrap up event is being held at the Cannery Hotel on October 29-30, 2010:
<http://www.examiner.com/cultural-events-in-las-vegas/guardians-of-the-ribbon-stops-north-las-vegas>

They aren't the type of people one would expect to see rolling around town wearing pretty, pink T-shirts. But in October, members of Greenwich (CT) Fire Department have put aside their traditional navy blue T-shirt uniforms and replaced them with light pink shirts to help promote Breast Cancer Awareness Month. "There are a lot of places that are doing this and we felt this would do some good for the community," said Dan Natale, a firefighter who helped organize the department's "Proud to Wear Pink Campaign." "It was a no-brainer for us."
<http://www.greenwichtime.com/local/article/Firefighters-look-pretty-in-pink-for-breast-690540.php>

Tuesday night, while Cowlitz 2's (WA) fire chief told the Kelso City Council about his agency's \$125,000 budget shortfall for 2011, the firefighters' union was taking a vote. To prevent further layoffs, the 28 members of International Firefighters Union Local 3828 unanimously decided to take a 5 percent pay cut and reduce their health benefits. The move was purely voluntary — no one asked the union to do it, Fire Chief Dave LaFave said Wednesday. "I'm very, very proud of them," LaFave said. "I can't believe what they're doing. It's the right thing to do. It's just, this day and age it's rare. ... They understand that the whole community is in this situation."
http://tdn.com/news/local/article_bec0e8ea-d271-11df-85c6-001cc4c002e0.html

A new labor agreement announced Monday by Seattle (WA) Mayor Mike McGinn and the Coalition of City Labor Unions will result in a \$2.1 million savings for the 2011 general fund, the mayor's office said. The agreement involves thousands of city workers agreeing to lower cost-of-living adjustments (COLAs) over the next three years, the mayor's office said. "I appreciate the leadership and members of the Coalition unions, the Firefighters and Fire Chiefs unions, and all of our city employees who are providing excellent public services," McGinn said. "They are the people who work hard every day keeping your parks maintained, your children and families healthy, your libraries great places to learn and grow, and your roadways safe for all to use." The city is facing a shortfall of \$67 million for the 2011-12 budget. Today's announcement, combined with cuts that have already been made, means 8,500 of the

city's 10,600 employees will take some kind of reduction in pay, the mayor's office said: <http://www.kirotv.com/news/25359181/detail.html>

The first 50 Boston (MA) firefighters screened in the city's new random drug and alcohol program have tested negative, a department spokesman said yesterday afternoon. The long-anticipated testing began with little fanfare Sept. 23, when 20 firefighters at three firehouses submitted to breathalyzers and urine tests:

http://www.boston.com/yourtown/boston/westroxbury/articles/2010/10/08/first_batch_of_random_drug_tests_for_firefighters_comes_back_clean/

Although the employee contract was not up for renewal, and the firefighters were not obligated to open negotiations with the city, members of the Costa Mesa (CA) Firefighters Association agreed to sit down with city officials to discuss the employee agreement and find ways to make cuts to help the budget deficit. "As I have said all along, our employees are working hard to help us, as a team together, to solve the budget crisis and I'm very thankful," Councilwoman Katrina Foley said. "They care about our community just like I do, and they are doing what they can to help solve a budget crisis that they did not create." The firefighters agreed to contribute 5% into their retirement accounts in addition to the 1% they pay now, City Manager Allan Roeder said. They also agreed to forego a salary increase scheduled to take effect in September:

http://www.dailypilot.com/news/tn-dpt-1012-firefighters-20101011_0_1164679.story

Starting Monday, Carson City (NV) firefighters will don pink Carson Tahoe Regional Healthcare Think Pink T-shirts with the Carson City Fire Department emblem. The shirts were donated by the hospital, and the Carson City Fire Fighters Association paid for the decal. The awareness campaign will last two weeks:

<http://www.nevadaappeal.com/article/20101009/NEWS/101009598/1070&ParentProfile=1058>

City leaders in Boise (ID) say they have successfully negotiated labor agreements with police and firefighters. The city touts this as a win for the police and fire departments, and for Boise taxpayers:

<http://www.ktvb.com/news/local/Boise-reaches-new-labor-deals-with-police-firefighters-104818919.html>

Kathleen Leonard will soon be able to walk into her northeast Salem home without her usual struggle because of a project done by a group of Marion County (OR) firefighters. Leonard and her roommate, who are both disabled, have had to maneuver their walkers on shallow stairs for several years, Leonard said. When she's needed to go to a hospital every two to six weeks, Leonard said she's been carried out by firefighters or she balanced between firefighters who helped walk her to an ambulance. It was a "by hook or by crook" process, she said. Now, Leonard will be able to be wheeled out on a gurney or use a walker to get down a wood ramp built by a crew of five firefighters from the Marion County Local IAFF 2557 union:

<http://www.statesmanjournal.com/article/20101012/UPDATE/101012036>

Butterfield Elementary School and the Maricopa (AZ) Fire Department have teamed up to offer Maricopans a “Cares Enough to Wear Pink” - “pink heals” opportunity. The breast cancer awareness fire truck that travels nationwide will arrive at Butterfield Elementary school on Monday, October 25 with the support of the Maricopa F.D.: <http://www.inmaricopa.com/NEWS/NewsArticleDetails.aspx?mid1=390&&ArticleID=9243>

Training & Safety Related Items:

The New York Department of Labor has found numerous safety and health violations at the Danby (NY) Fire Department after investigating a complaint by a former firefighter, according to The Ithaca Journal. Danby Fire District Commissioner Patrick Caveney said each violation has been addressed and also admitted filling key leadership posts has been difficult. The violations included:

- *Failure to document risk assessment for emergency escape rope systems*
- *Failure to develop and implement an emergency response plan*
- *Failure to provide protective chaps for employees during chainsaw operations*
- *Outdated respiratory protection procedures*
- *Expired medical supplies*
- *Backup power cord not properly grounded*
- *Insufficient restroom facilities in building under renovation*
- *Biohazard refuse bin not properly labeled*

<http://www.firehouse.com/news/top-headlines/ny-dept-cited-safety-and-health-violations>

Photographs of a firefighter fighting a car fire without proper gear Aug. 10 led to the suspension of Friday Harbor (WA) Fire Chief Vern Long. But it wasn't the first time firefighters fought a car fire without wearing their self-contained breathing apparatus, or SCBAs. A review of Journal photo files turned up previously unpublished photos of a car fire July 8, showing firefighters without SCBAs extinguishing Connie Auge's smoldering 2003 VW Golf, parked in front of her hair salon:

<http://www.pnwlocalnews.com/sanjuans/jsj/news/102818464.html>

Bed bugs are showing up in clothing stores in New York and hotels across the country - and now a fire house in Phoenix. Firefighters have been unable to work out of their station because of the problem:

<http://www.myfoxphoenix.com/dpp/news/local/phoenix/bed-bugs-phx-fire-09152010>

The North Charleston (SC) Fire Department has been cited for two violations of workplace safety rules in the handling of a July house fire that left three firefighters injured. The first citation is for the lack of an accountability system for tracking the movements and assignments of firefighters battling the blaze. The citation said the department "knew or should have known" that firefighters "were exposed to the hazards of being trapped in a burning residential building" and that one accepted way to deal with those hazards is to "establish and ensure the use of an initial personnel accountability system." The second citation is for failing to adhere to the so-called "two in, two out" rule throughout the fire. The rule requires that at least two firefighters enter a burning building and remain in contact with each other, while at least two more firefighters remain outside, ready to help should an emergency arise:

<http://www.postandcourier.com/news/2010/sep/16/fire-department-cited-for-safety-violations/>

New details about the death of a rookie Homewood (IL) firefighter were revealed Monday in a scathing report that indicates the suburban fire department was ill-prepared to handle a fire of the magnitude that killed two people and seriously injured another in March. An investigation into the extra-alarm house fire on March 30 that killed firefighter Brian Carey, 28, determined the Homewood Fire Department used "ineffective" fire control methods; failed to "recognize, understand and react" to quickly deteriorating conditions; and was short-staffed and ill-equipped to take on such an intense blaze:

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/local/southsouthwest/ct-met-homewood-fatal-fire-report-09220100920,0,2339349.story>

More from Homewood (IL): Uncoordinated ventilation caused a flashover that killed one firefighter and injured another when both failed to recognize signs of rapidly deteriorating conditions, investigators found:

<http://www.firerescue1.com/fire-attack/articles/886171-NIOSH-Uncoordinated-ventilation-caused-flashover-killing-ill-firefighter/>

Researchers have found that firefighters may face an increased risk for heart disease from exposures that occur while working during the overhaul stage, according to a recent study in the August 2010 issue of the Journal of Occupational and Environmental Medicine. Since coronary heart disease is the No. 1 killer of firefighters in the U.S., researchers say this is important information and that firefighters -- particularly in those with poor physical fitness or personal health -- could be predisposed to heart disease. The researchers found that the levels of ultrafine particulates were highest during overhaul; both in indoor and outdoor structure fires as well as vehicle fires. According to the study, while firefighters are required to wear breathing apparatus during the knockdown stage, many are not required to use the equipment during overhaul:

<http://www.firehouse.com/stateprovince/other/study-addresses-dangers-not-wearing-ppe-during-overhaul>

With radios, sirens, lights, onboard computers, GPS locators, license plate scanners, you name it, there's little wonder that responders are distracted. "Gadgets in emergency vehicles are now seen as a peril," Texas Trooper Dub Gillum said, noting that some might dispute that, saying the technology is useful in police work and emergency responses for ambulances and fire apparatus. Gillum, however, is of the mind that computers in the cruiser are at least as dangerous. "What are we doing typing on the computer in the cruiser?" Gillum said. "I'm a police officer, not a police communications officer. We pay good money for those people. We need to keep focused on what we do, not typing on a computer." Gillum said he's heard a recent trend that suggests people are taking computers out of their cruisers for the same reason that people are being discouraged from texting and using the cell phone -- they are distractions. "We should know better," he said. "Responders are held to a higher standard. We have to be good drivers."

<http://www.firehouse.com/news/top-headlines/responders-urged-stop-distracted-driving>

In Denver (CO), riled bedbugs hinder effort to fight house fire. Thirty-eight firefighters battled the blaze, which took about 45 minutes to put out. The pesky bedbugs, animated by the fire, sought refuge on firefighters, latching onto equipment and gear. Firefighters had to guard against bringing the bugs back to their firehouse:

http://www.denverpost.com/ci_16211364

When people call for their firefighters, they expect them to be prepared. A new training facility built in Fremont (CA) should help ensure that. A five-story, \$4 million training facility has opened at the west end of Stevenson Boulevard, affording local firefighters the opportunity to get better at their craft: http://www.insidebayarea.com/ci_16196790

San Diego (CA) firefighters have been forced to flee the city's main fire station because of a bedbug infestation. The 11 firefighters assigned to Fire Station No. 1 downtown spent Monday night at other stations while exterminators began what could be a prolonged battle to rid the station of the tiny pests:

http://www.fox5sandiego.com/news/kswb-firestation-infested-with-bedbugs_0,6162053.story

A million times a year, fire trucks are driven into the streets of New York City, usually at breakneck speeds with lights and sirens blaring. The rush is often critical: Firefighters converge on fires, douse the flames and save lives. The same response applies in less serious situations — calls that are not life-threatening, which are expected to reach around 230,000 this year after steadily rising from 41,054 in 1969. But with 35-ton rigs barreling through red lights and forcing traffic off the roads or through busy intersections, accidents occur, sometimes with deadly consequences. Nearly 700 times last year, the city's fire trucks collided with other vehicles and, occasionally, with one another. Now, for the first time, the Fire Department is re-engineering its approach: Its plan, set to begin on Monday as a three-month pilot program in Queens, is meant to slow firefighters' responses to certain calls by having them turn off their lights and sirens and follow the usual traffic rules. In 2009, there were 148 accidents involving fire trucks that were responding to calls for things like water and gas leaks, toppled trees, foul odors, false alarms and faulty sprinkler system activations: http://www.nytimes.com/2010/10/04/nyregion/04fire.html?_r=3

McMinnville (OR) firefighters demonstrate how fast fire spreads - After 11 seconds, the smoke alarm went off. At 36, flames were shooting up two feet and beginning to spread. At 46 seconds, the room was filled with thick black smoke. At 60, it was engulfed in flames. Within seconds, it was no longer possible to survive inside. McMinnville firefighters hoped the graphic demonstration of how fast fire spreads, staged at Linfield College, would make a lasting impression on students. Firefighters placed a giant timer in front of the fire, making it easy to track the speed with which the flames progressed: <http://www.newsregister.com/article/45678-speed+fire>

Federal investigators probing a helicopter crash that killed seven firefighters during a California blaze have uncovered widespread violations and falsified records, the latest in a string of accidents raising questions about the safety of flights operated for government agencies:

http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2010-10-12-1Asmokejumpers12_ST_N.htm

Thieves pilfered lockers inside a Kansas City fire station Monday night while firefighters were away. A small amount of cash and personal effects of one firefighter were reported taken from the station at 401 E. Missouri Ave., according to Kansas City (MO) police. The station had been empty from about 5:45 p.m. to 7 p.m. Monday, when fire crews returned and discovered that several lockers had been ransacked:

<http://www.firehouse.com/news/top-headlines/mo-dept-lockers-robbed-while-ffs-were-away>

It has been a difficult year for Theresa McCarthy and her family. On August 24, 2009, her husband Buffalo (NY) Fire Lt. Charles McCarthy, along with firefighter Jonathan Croom, were killed while fighting a fire in a Genesee Street deli. Wednesday, Ms. McCarthy filed a lawsuit against deli owners Adel Abdullah and Seleh Abdullah, The City of Buffalo, The Buffalo Fire Department, Buffalo Mayor Byron Brown and former Buffalo Fire Commissioner Michael Lombardo. The suit claims negligence on many levels. The city is accused of not inspecting the business or enforcing various codes. McCarthy also claims the city and fire department did not follow fire safety regulations and ignored the so-called "Two In-Two Out" rule that requires site commanders to keep track of firefighters entering and leaving a burning structure:

<http://www.wgrz.com/news/local/story.aspx?storyid=90872&catid=37>

The American Heart Association now recommends that chest compressions be the first step for rescuers to revive victims of sudden cardiac arrest. For more than 40 years, the guidelines have stressed the importance of clearing the victim's airway as the first step in cardiopulmonary resuscitation, or CPR. Now, with a change effective today, the first step is to start compressions. "We need to get that blood that already has oxygen into the brain and the heart muscle," said Julie Nace, a nurse and paramedic for American Medical Response, an ambulance company that also runs CPR and first aid clinics in San Bernardino (CA) and Riverside counties. "A lot of people are just not comfortable doing mouth-to-mouth," said Anthony Pena, a firefighter/paramedic based at the San Bernardino County Fire Department's Lake Arrowhead station. "They may not do it right. They may be worried about chance of cross-contamination. This gets down to just doing the chest compressions A.S.A.P."

<http://www.firehouse.com/news/top-headlines/new-cpr-guidelines-stress-chest-compressions>

If you are a fire chief, or want to be one, you should read this. Paper praises Burton, SC chief on handling of a fire service reputation issue. It is an editorial published on Friday at IslandPacket.com in praise of Burton Fire District Chief Harry Rountree and his handling of an embarrassing incident for his department: the possible disappearance of \$2000 in MDA "fill the boot" money collected by firefighters. The local sheriff is investigating, at Chief Rountree's request, whether this is an accounting error or someone stole the cash:

<http://statter911.com/2010/10/16/if-you-are-a-fire-chief-or-want-to-be-one-you-should-read-this-paper-praises-burton-sc-chief-on-handling-of-a-reputation-issue/>

General Fire Service Related Items:

It's been nine months since the incident and Leslie Comar is still seething. "Despicable," she says of a \$1,630 bill she received from the city of Eugene's (OR) Fire

& Emergency Medical Services Department for a 11/2-mile transport by ambulance of her 21-year-old son last December. Zack Co- mar, a University of Oregon senior who's an insulin-dependent diabetic, was attending the Civil War football game Dec. 3 at Autzen Stadium when he started to feel ill. Eugene EMS personnel transported him to Sacred Heart Medical Center, University District, from which he was soon released. "Imagine my shock when I received the bill," says Leslie Comar. "It's ridiculous." What Comar didn't realize is that she's expected to pay not only what it actually cost to transport her son but to help cover the costs of transporting other ambulance users who have not paid. And probably won't:

<http://www.registerguard.com/csp/cms/sites/web/news/cityregion/25217526-41/ambulance-springfield-says-eugene-fire.csp>

South Fulton's (TN) fire chief was assaulted Wednesday in the aftermath of a fire where firefighters were unable to respond because the property owner had not paid a rural fire subscription fee. South Fulton Fire Chief David Wilds was treated at an area hospital after being assaulted about 5:45 p.m. at the city's fire station, located in the South Fulton Municipal Building. Timothy A. Cranick, 44, a resident of Buddy Jones Road near South Fulton, was arrested and charged with felony aggravated assault, according to South Fulton Police Chief Andy Crocker. Crocker said the assault stemmed from a fire that occurred earlier in the day and he identified Cranick as a family member of the person whose property burned. He said Cranick allegedly came to the fire station looking for Wilds, according to witnesses. When the fire chief identified himself and asked if he could help him, Cranick allegedly struck Wilds. "He just cold-cocked him," Crocker said, based on witness statements:

<http://www.nwtntoday.com/news.php?viewStory=46801>

The Goodyear (AZ) Fire Department has created a new volunteer program and plans to secure funding and staffing to operate it. "We're just really getting it started," Community Education Coordinator Tanja Tanner said. "We haven't really kicked off our recruitment." The program is under the umbrella of the national Citizen Corps volunteer program, which includes the Community Emergency Response Team and Volunteers in Police Service. Fire Corps volunteers help the Fire Department, promote fire-safety awareness and prepare the community for emergencies. Tanner said one of their main goals is to start a "canteen," which would be a vehicle that provides beverages, food and other supplies to firefighters who are on a scene for several hours. Other things volunteers could do include manning information tables at safety fairs, teaching CPR classes, doing child safety seat inspections and participating in smoke-alarm walks:

<http://www.azcentral.com/community/swvalley/articles/2010/10/11/20101011goodyear-fire-department-volunteer-program.html>

The Riverside County (CA) Board of Supervisors is slated today to review a fire department proposal that calls for folding Riverside County's 500-member volunteer firefighter force into a reserve program with stricter standards:

<http://www.mydesert.com/article/20100914/NEWS01/100914005/Supervisors-to-consider-folding-volunteer-firefighter-force-into-reserve-program>

Nevada Assemblyman Tick Segerblom has requested a bill draft to consider consolidating southern Nevada fire agencies. The Las Vegas Democrat on Tuesday said it's time to discuss the issue as a way to trim costs and increase efficiency. There are four separate fire departments in southern Nevada - Clark County, Las Vegas, North Las Vegas and Henderson. But Segerblom says fires don't have city boundaries: <http://www.8newsnow.com/Global/story.asp?S=13152579>

There's an effort underway to consolidate different fire agencies in San Diego County. The Board of Supervisors voted Tuesday to implement a fire protection plan. The plan comes out of the recently completed Fire Deployment Study commissioned more than a year ago. It calls for creating a Joint Powers Agreement among various fire agencies in the county. It also names CAL FIRE San Diego Chief Howard Windsor as the San Diego fire chief: <http://www.kpbs.org/news/2010/sep/15/county-fire-plan-calls-consolidating-agencies/>

North Kitsap's (WA) fire districts could save money by consolidating services as budgets tighten. North Kitsap Fire & Rescue and the Poulsbo Fire Department released a joint request for proposals this week asking for a consulting company to find more ways the districts can cooperate: <http://www.pnwlocalnews.com/kitsap/nkh/news/104580349.html>

In a campaign flier mailed to voters this week, Reno Councilwoman Sharon Zadra claims she has no conflict of interest in making budget decisions -- but her opponent does. Zadra has a brother-in-law who is a firefighter while Brandi Anderson, her opponent, is married to a firetruck operator. Both candidates in the Ward 2 race have relatives working for the city close enough that they must disclose their conflicts when it comes to votes directly affecting those relatives' paychecks: <http://www.rgj.com/article/20101017/NEWS19/10170365/1017/news11>

The Buffalo (NY) fire chief wants to use KFC logo for funds: Cities that allow KFC to advertise on fire hydrants and fire extinguishers are rewarded with cash donations for fire safety equipment, repairs or improvements: <http://www.firerescue1.com/fundraising/articles/880517-Bufferalo-fire-chief-wants-to-use-KFC-logo-for-funds/>

San Diego (CA) Councilman Carl DeMaio Wednesday questioned \$5.4 million in special pay annually given to San Diego firefighters who hold an emergency medical technician certification -- a requirement of the job. DeMaio called it a "questionable and dubious bonus" at a time when cuts are being proposed for next fiscal year that could result in the sidelining of additional fire engines and firefighter layoffs. "... in this economic climate, when we have these sorts of budget challenges in the city of San Diego, we ought to suspend this bonus pay rather than continuing to pay people bonuses for job qualifications that they are already required to have just to hold the job in the Fire Department," DeMaio said: <http://www.fox5sandiego.com/news/kswb-demaio-questions-firefighter-bonuses,0,1855092.story>

The IAFF has criticized the Tennessee fire department that refused to extinguish a mobile home fire. South Fulton firefighters initially did not respond to the fire on Sept. 29 because the homeowner didn't pay a \$75 annual fire protection fee, and later arrived on scene only because nearby homeowners' property was threatened:

<http://www.firerescue1.com/fire-department-management/articles/889128-IAFF-criticizes-Tenn-fire-department-for-letting-house-burn/>

More fire departments are telling homeowners "no pay, no spray." That is, if homeowners are not paying their taxes to support fire protection services, fire departments such as Arvada (CO) won't respond to their homes to fight a fire:

<http://www.kwgn.com/news/kdvr-fire-fees-txt,0,1849758.story>

Colonel Sanders' friendly face will likely grace Buffalo (NY) city firehouses soon, but his presence will be limited to a month or so. In a 7-2 vote this afternoon, Buffalo lawmakers approved a plan that would allow the city to accept a \$2,500 donation from KFC to buy 100 fire extinguishers. The extinguishers would bear KFC's "New Fiery Grilled Wings" logo along with Colonel Sander's familiar image. The deal would involve the city placing the extinguishers in firehouses for several weeks, just as visitors come in for events commemorating Fire Prevention Month. The devices then will be donated to individuals, using a distribution method that the Fire Department has yet to divulge: <http://www.buffalonews.com/city/article210725.ece>

A slap upside the head to local fire departments, if Colorado voters pass the initiatives known as the "ugly three" the results could be as terrifying as longer response times for fire calls to higher insurance rates for homeowners. In anti-tax counties such as Teller and El Paso, Amendments 60 and 61 and Proposition 101 are far-reaching and go way beyond the language on the ballot. Amendment 60 and Proposition 101 cut taxes and vehicle fees while 61 impedes government borrowing, which is critical to building and maintaining the economy. No doubt about it, fire chiefs in the region are nervous, crossing their fingers that voters will be aware that cutting taxes and fees means, in the long run, higher costs somewhere else. "I don't even like to think about them," said Florissant Fire Chief Robert Bertram. "If 60 and 61 pass, we're looking at a reduction of almost half of our budget, which would barely be enough to pay our utilities and keep gas in our vehicles."

http://coloradocommunitynewspapers.com/articles/2010/10/13/courier_gold_rush/news/20_w_p_amendments.txt

An appellate court panel of three justices has unanimously upheld last year's jury verdict awarding damages to four San Diego (CA) firefighters who sued the city because they had been required to participate in the 2007 gay pride parade in Hillcrest. The 2009 jury found the firefighters were sexually harassed by some parade participants and spectators and awarded them a total of \$34,300 plus more than a half-million dollars in legal fees. The firefighters, John Ghiotto, Chad Allison, Jason Hewitt and Alexander Kane, had always maintained money was not the issue and that they had sued because they felt it was wrong to have been forced by their superiors to take part in the parade: <http://www.signonsandiego.com/news/2010/oct/16/appeals-court-upholds-verdict-pride-parade-firefig/>

Facing the breakup of the Belmont-San Carlos Fire Department in 13 months, the Belmont (CA) City Council on Tuesday said it did not want to team up with any other cities or the state to form a new fire department. Officials conceded that a stand-alone fire department would be the most expensive option, but they said they had grown tired of sharing with outsiders the power to manage one of their most critical services. "We need some more control over what's going on in the fire department," said Councilman Dave Warden, citing what has been an at-times acrimonious relationship with San Carlos. Still, though, council members said they would ask their neighbors to share some of the smaller duties of a fire department, such as training, the fire marshal and chief positions and oversight of medical responses. Council members said they had no interest in contracting out fire services to a local city or Cal Fire, as San Carlos plans to do: http://www.mercurynews.com/ci_16085552?nclick_check=1

Goodyear (AZ) firefighters saw a twist on the stereotypical cat stuck in a tree when they were called to remove a 5-foot iguana from a tree, authorities said. The incident highlights potential dangers of keeping exotic animals as pets to owners and firefighters, and has prompted Goodyear firefighters to consider more training: <http://www.azcentral.com/community/swvalley/articles/2010/09/17/20100917goodyear-iguana-removal-training.html>

With the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office poised to take over San Carlos' (CA) police services in two weeks, council members voted Monday to issue a request for proposals to outsource the city's fire department, too. San Carlos is outsourcing several of its services, including parks maintenance and payroll, in an effort to fix budget shortfalls. The city currently shares fire service with Belmont, but says it has taken on a higher portion of costs and recently voted to dissolve its agreement. CalFire, San Mateo, the Menlo Fire Protection District and Redwood City have all expressed interest in working with the City of San Carlos to provide fire services: http://www.contracostatimes.com/california/ci_16375041?nclick_check=1

The faces of the New Orleans (LA) Fire Department are younger today than ever before. In fact, many firefighters who hold leadership positions have less than five years of experience. NOFD Superintendent Charles Parent said the department changed after Hurricane Katrina, when the majority of the experienced force retired or left the city and never came back. Here are the current numbers: 46 of 173 fire captains, 40 of 123 fire operators, and 13 of 30 district chiefs have less than five years of experience: <http://www.firehouse.com/news/top-headlines/new-orleans-firefighters-younger-ever>

Is the cost of a cab ride worth the risk? There is no such thing as a simple DUI for EMS providers: <http://www.ems1.com/legislation-funding/articles/867401-Is-the-cost-of-a-cab-ride-worth-the-risk/>

5 more ways Facebook can get you fired - Remember that there are always consequences to what you post online on social media sites: <http://www.firerescue1.com/social-media-for-firefighters/articles/883746-5-more-ways-Facebook-can-get-you-fired/>

After three decades of union control, staffing levels in the city fire department are now in the hands of the Bakersfield (CA) City Council following a tense meeting packed with firefighters Wednesday night. The council's unanimous vote to impose the city's so-called "last, best and final" offer -- a move that jettisoned longstanding contract language that had given the union power over staffing -- left firefighters seething:

<http://www.bakersfield.com/news/local/x174836217/City-takes-over-firefighter-staffing-ending-30-years-of-union-control>

Volunteer firefighters asked the Orange County (CA) Fire Authority board to spare the reserve program, and one attorney warned the board could be in breach of its contract, but county officials decided to slash the volunteer program in half, cutting 245 reserve positions by the end of Thursday night. According to a six-month review by the OCFA, the stations facing cuts were able to respond to only a fraction of the calls to which they were summoned. For example, the 13-member reserve squad at Station 25 in Midway City responded to just over 50 percent of the calls. Sunset Beach, La Palma, Lake Forest and Tustin responded to less than a quarter of all calls. But several reserves and city leaders opposed the cuts, which would eliminate stations that have been community icons for years. But fire officials pointed to the numbers in the OCFA study, which they said show that some stations have not been performing to satisfactory standards. The Villa Park station, for example, responded to one of 59 calls between January and June of this year. "We're not in the fun business," said Joe Kerr, president of the Orange County Professional Firefighters union. Kerr said that although some stations had exemplary figures in the report, others treated the reserve program as a social club:

<http://www.ocregister.com/news/reserve-267933-county-board.html>

Unmarked white box trucks arrived without warning outside three Boston (MA) firehouses yesterday, as the Fire Department began random drug and alcohol testing, a quiet ending to what had become a bitter and protracted labor dispute:

http://www.boston.com/news/local/massachusetts/articles/2010/09/24/city_ushers_in_random_drug_tests_on_firefighters/

If the city of Cleveland (OH) were to send building inspectors into 3170 East 131st Street, they would find plenty of problems to cite. The concrete floor on the first floor where heavy trucks park has a hole in it and is danger of collapsing. A plastic garbage can collects water from a leaking roof in the living quarters. The heating system often fails in the winter as does air conditioning in the summer. The basement is a grisly place worthy of a horror movie set with its exposed wiring, rusted pipes and standing water. But the city won't condemn this particular building. It's Fire Station 36 -- one of Cleveland's busiest -- where a crew of eight firefighters eat, sleep and work 24 hours a day, 365 days a year:

http://blog.cleveland.com/metro/2010/09/cleveland_city_council_tours_d.html

Merging the South Kitsap (WA) and Bremerton fire agencies would save about \$655,000 a year once the joint operation was up and running, according to a committee studying the issue:

<http://www.kitsapsun.com/news/2010/oct/01/big-savings-anticipated-if-bremerton-south-merge/>

Southern Nevada firefighters took aim at a private ambulance service Monday, saying they wanted to "sound the alarm" over the services provided under contract to Clark County, Las Vegas and North Las Vegas residents. It was the latest salvo in what is turning into a legal battle between American Medical Response and the firefighter unions -- who work together in the field but are now opponents in the legal system. And it comes at a time when first responders are in the spotlight over wages and benefits, emergency medical services are seen as an area ripe for privatization and some fire departments are transporting more patients, which is a source of revenue. AMR officials called the allegations "unfounded political attacks of distortion."

<http://www.lvrj.com/news/firefighters--sound-alarm--about-private-ambulance-service-104319099.html>

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

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

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

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Chabot College Fire Technology & EMS web site: www.chabotfire.com
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