



FIRE & EMS NEWS

September 11, 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.

9-11-2001:

Please take a moment of silence to honor all of the firefighters, law enforcement officers, EMS personnel, and civilians who lost their lives 9 years ago today in the tragic events that unfolded on the East Coast as we know today as "9/11."

While we know of 343 Firefighters who made the ultimate sacrifice, there were thousands others as well who lost their lives. Not to take away from the Firefighters, but to just remember the countless others – as they say, "some gave all, all gave some." Besides the 343 Firefighters, there are also thousands of other Firefighters who survived the incident, but have since had to retire, since passed away, or since developed some form of medical or physical condition based on the hazardous conditions.

We must never forget!

Reflections on September 11, 2001:

By Glenn A. Gaines, Acting U.S. Fire Administrator

As we have witnessed the events faced by California firefighters over the past several days, and on the eve of another September 11th remembrance, I find myself reflecting back to a time 9 years ago, and grateful for the services provided by our nation's firefighters to the residents of their communities. On September 11, 2001 my wife Linda and I were visiting Great Britain as a part of a tour. We were in Wales on the morning of 9-11 and the local time was just after 4:00 PM.

We joined with the global community as we watched the British television coverage with much concern while our fellow citizens, public safety, and government responded to the strike against our country. We would attend a Mass for those who died and were injured in the three incidents of September 11th. The next morning, we found the garden outside the U. S. Embassy filled with citizens of London and surrounding neighborhoods who had brought all manner of gifts and expressions of sympathy for our nation and its first responders. These items included I Love New York t-shirts, personal (homemade) cards, miniature Twin Towers, and many other expressions meant to encourage and recognize those involved directly and indirectly with these tragic events. There were hundreds of London citizens from all walks of life, and all ages who came to our Embassy to sign a book of condolences. The line stretched for blocks.

I can still vividly recall being asked by my fellow American tour members if I thought there were firefighters in the towers when they collapsed. My response was clear and very hard to communicate. I said you can be assured they were there and in harm's way, for it is what firefighters and first responders do. We as a nation can be most proud of the men and women of our firefighting and EMS services. Today, as I reflect back on the events of 2001, and watch with great concern the activities of the men and women of the San Francisco area fire and EMS services, I am once again reminded of the invaluable services all first responders provide.

On behalf of the staff of the United States Fire Administration (USFA), I would like to thank the men and women of this nation's fire and EMS services for the continued excellence of service they provide for all residents throughout our great country. The USFA will always remember the efforts of so many on September 11, 2001, and continue to join with our partners in providing the leadership and support required of today's fire service.

FROM STATER911.com – 9/11 LINKS & INFO:

From STATER911.com comes a great collection of 9/11 website links and information:
[A 9-11 reader: Fire & EMS websites pause to remember.](#)

Below, we take a scan of the fire service media on the web to see how some other sites are honoring those we lost nine-years-ago today –

- [Some thoughts from Firegeezer](#) and [FossilMedic](#).
- [Firehouse.com has a tribute page.](#)
- [At Firehouse Zen the focus is religion.](#)
- [The Company Officer has a column titled Honor and Remembrance.](#)
- [The Happy Medic looks at the work of Medic 49 Victor and the loss of Paramedic Carlos Lillo.](#)
- [At Backstep Firefighter a reminder this day is not about us.](#)



- [Firefighter Basics has a video tribute.](#)
- [Another video at Command Safety.](#)
- [The topic at A Day in the Life of an Ambulance Driver is heroism.](#)
- [Firefighter Blog has an account of the day by FDNY's Tom Dunn.](#)
- [At ChiefReasonArt.com some words on observing 9-11.](#)
- [Life Under the Lights looks at a relevant previous column.](#)
- [Firefighter Spot has a 9-11 timeline posted.](#)
- [Remembering Providence looks back.](#)

FIRE SERVICE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY:

The [Alameda County \(CA\) Fire Department](#) is accepting application for **Firefighter Recruit** until September 30, 2010.

IDEAL QUALIFICATIONS FOR THE POSITION **(see job announcement for more specific details):**

- High school diploma or high school equivalency certificate; and
- Possession of a certificate of completion of a California State Fire Marshal approved Firefighter 1 course; and
- State of California Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) or National Registry EMT or a California EMT-P or Nationally Registered Paramedic; and
- A valid California Driver's License; and

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

- Possession of a CPAT certificate issued within the last twelve months from the last date of filing (9/30/2010); and
- Be a paid Firefighter-EMT or Firefighter-Paramedic in a Fire Department (seasonal employment is eligible) or be on the California Fire Fighter Joint Apprenticeship Committee Displaced Firefighter List; or
- Be a current member of a Reserve Program that is supported by a professional City or County Fire Department or Fire District; or
- Be a nationally registered paramedic

To view the job announcement and for more specific details about the position including how to apply, go to: <http://www.acgov.org/fire/index.htm>

For more information about the **Alameda County Fire Department**, visit their website at: <http://www.acgov.org/fire/index.htm>

For more information about the **County of Alameda**, visit their website at: <http://www.acgov.org>

For more information about the **Alameda County Fire Department Firefighters Association**, *International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) Local 55*, visit their website at: <http://acffa.iafflocal55.com/>

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

USFA Releases Vacant Residential Building Fires Report

August 19, 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 fires in vacant residential buildings. The report, [Vacant Residential Building Fires](#) (PDF, 744 Kb), was developed by USFA's National Fire Data Center and is further evidence of FEMA's commitment to sharing information with fire departments and first responders around the country to help them keep their communities safe.

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 28,000 vacant residential building fires occur annually in the United States, resulting in an estimated average of 45 deaths, 225 injuries, and \$900 million in property loss. Vacant residential fires are considered part of the residential fire problem as they comprise

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approximately 7 percent of residential building fires. In addition, intentional is the leading cause of vacant residential building fires which are more prevalent in July (9 percent), due in part to an increase in intentional fires on July 4 and 5. Finally, almost all vacant residential building fires are nonconfined and half spread to involve the entire building.

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 the United States Fire Administration, visit www.usfa.fema.gov.

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:**

TAK – RESPONSE – *San Jose, CA* - September 14 through 16, 2010
Go to www.takresponse.com for more information.

Firehouse Central – *Dallas, TX* - September 27 through October 1, 2010
Go to www.firehousecentral.com for more information.

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

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



29th Annual National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Weekend to be Held October 2-3, 2010

- 105 Fallen Firefighters to Be Honored

The National Fallen Firefighters Foundation (NFFF) and the Department of Homeland Security's U.S. Fire Administration announce that the 29th annual National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Weekend will be held at the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg on October 2-3, 2010. A plaque with the names of 80 firefighters who died in the line of duty in 2009 will be added to the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial, located here on the National Fire Academy campus. Military firefighters who died while performing firefighting duties from 1981-2009 are among 25 from previous years who are also being honored. The plaques surrounding the Memorial, which was established in 1981, will contain the names of more than 3,400 firefighters.

» **Read:** [The Full Article on Weekend.FireHero.org](http://Weekend.FireHero.org)

» **Watch:**

[Join Us for the 2010 Memorial Weekend](#)



How You Can Honor Our Fallen Firefighters:

» **Remembrance Banner:** [Share a Memory or Tribute](#)

» **On Your Website:** [Display the Memorial Widget](#)

» **Download:** [2010 Memorial Weekend Wallpaper](#)

» **Pay Tribute:** [Issue a Proclamation](#)

» **Honor:** [Lower the U.S. Flag; Sound the Siren](#)

Tell Us About Your Traditions!

We'd love to hear how you observe the national Memorial Service for fallen firefighters or take time out to honor fallen firefighters in your community. We'll be creating a special page to share your ideas, traditions, and resources with other departments across the U.S. [Email Us Today to Share Your Story!](#)

FIRE SERVICE TRAINING OPPORTUNITY:

California Training Officers' 15th Annual

2010 Fall Training Symposium

November 15 – 19, 2010

Radisson Hotel & Conference Center
Fresno, California



To view all of the classes being offered and to register, click on the box below or go to <http://register.calchiefs.org>



Questions?

Please email: cato@calchiefs.org

FIREHIRE.COM NEWSLETTER:



FIREHIRE® Inc. Newsletter

Where Your Fire Service Career Begins!

August 9, 2010

LATEST NEWS

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

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

CPAT INFORMATION

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

RECENT FIREHIRE CANDIDATE HIRINGS

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

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

COULD YOU BE NEXT?

FIREHIRE Written Examination Study Guide

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

WRITTEN EXAMINATION DATES/TIMES

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

FIREHIRE now on facebook

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

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

<http://www.firehire.com>

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

USFA Releases Fatal Fires in Residential Buildings Report

August 19, 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 fatal fires in residential buildings. The report, [Fatal Fires in Residential Buildings](#) (PDF, 708 Kb), was developed by USFA's National Fire Data Center and is further evidence of FEMA's commitment to sharing information with fire departments and first responders around the country to help them keep their communities safe.

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 1,800 fatal residential building fires occur annually in the United States, resulting in an estimated average of 2,635 deaths, 725 injuries, and \$196 million in property loss. The leading cause of fatal residential fires is smoking (19 percent) and the leading areas of fire origin are bedrooms (27 percent) and common areas such as living and family rooms (23 percent). In addition, fatal residential fires, which tend to be larger, cause more damage, and have higher injury rates than nonfatal residential fires, occur most frequently in the late evening and early morning hours, peaking from midnight to 5 a.m. Finally, these types of fires are more prevalent in the cooler months, peaking in January (13 percent).

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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 the United States Fire Administration, visit www.usfa.fema.gov.

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

USFA and the International Association of Fire Fighters Develop Best Practices for Emergency Vehicle and Roadway Operations Safety

August 24, 2010

USFA Media Contact:
(301) 447-1853

Emmitsburg, MD – The United States Fire Administration (USFA), in partnership with the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF), announces the release of **Best Practices for Emergency Vehicle and Roadway Operations Safety** which highlights the results of a U.S. Department of Justice, National Institute of Justice (NIJ) supported initiative to enhance emergency vehicle and roadway operations safety for firefighters and law enforcement officers. “With vehicle crashes and emergency responders being struck on the roadway being a major cause of on-duty fatalities, it is important for all first responders to avail themselves of these programs to reduce this tragic cause of death,” said Acting U.S. Fire Administrator Glenn A. Gaines. “We are grateful for the U.S. Department of Justice’s support of this emergency vehicle and roadway safety initiative which benefits the fire service and law enforcement alike.” “The number of law enforcement officers and firefighters killed in vehicle crashes and as the result of being struck by vehicles as they work at the roadside is disturbing and unacceptable,” said IAFF General President Harold A. Schaitberger. “The purpose of this program is to provide information to all emergency responders that will make their jobs safer.”

The goal of this project is to provide a basic guide for all law enforcement officers and firefighters to improve their level of safety at work. The document discusses training, policy development, education, and technology to enhance emergency vehicle and roadway safety operations.

Best Practices for Emergency Vehicle and Roadway Operations Safety is available on the [IAFF’s website](#).

Further information on USFA’s emergency vehicle and roadway operations safety projects may be found on the [USFA’s website](#).

FIRE SERVICE TRAINING OPPORTUNITY:

***California Regional Fire Academy
Basic Firefighter One Academy***

Applications are now available for the upcoming Academy Classes!

Visit www.fireandrescuetraining.ca.gov

to download an application.

(located on the "Apply" page)

Hardcopies are also available at the business office or may be mailed by request.

The California Regional Fire Academy is now accepting applications for Academy Classes scheduled to begin on

Monday, November 8, 2010:

- 12th Academy Class ~ Full-Time Format Academy
- 13th Academy Class ~ Extended Format Academy

Application Deadline:

All applications must be received by the business office by

4:00 p.m. on Thursday, September 23, 2010.

Late application submissions will not be considered for this academy process.

All applications will be reviewed after the deadline of September 23, 2010. All applicants will be notified by mail and email on their standing in the Academy within **two weeks** after the application deadline.

Further information is available on the website and in the application packet.

California Fire and Rescue Training Authority

(916) 475-1660

www.fireandrescuetraining.ca.gov

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

USFA Releases Vacant Residential Building Fires Report

August 19, 2010 - *USFA Media Contact: (301) 447-1853*

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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 the United States Fire Administration, visit www.usfa.fema.gov.

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

CPSC Announces Carbon Monoxide Safety Poster Contest

Prize Money for Finalists' Posters That Best Teach About CO Dangers

WASHINGTON, D. C. – The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) is challenging middle school students nationwide to create a poster to help teach families about the dangers of carbon monoxide (CO) in the home. CPSC's poster contest is open to students in grades 6, 7 and 8.

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For each grade level, three finalists will be selected for a total of nine finalists. Each finalist will win \$250 in prize money. CPSC judges will choose the best overall poster and the winner will receive an additional \$500.

CPSC's goal for the poster contest is to raise awareness and to help reverse a deadly trend. CO is an odorless, colorless and deadly gas. It is called the "Invisible Killer" because you cannot see it or smell it and it can kill its victims quickly. Each year more than 150 people die from accidental non-fire carbon monoxide poisoning associated with consumer products in the United States and that number is on the rise. Most of the increase is due to consumers improperly using generators indoors, in attached garages or in other enclosed spaces.

Students' posters will be evaluated on the clarity of their CO safety message, visual appeal and design originality. The poster contest runs from September 7 through December 31, 2010 during which time submissions will be accepted online or by mail. Find out more about the contest and the rules at www.challenge.gov/cpsc.

Who: Middle school students in 6, 7 and 8th grades are eligible to participate

What: Carbon Monoxide Poster Contest

When: September 7 through December 31, 2010

Where: Find out more about the contest and the rules and to submit posters at www.challenge.gov/cpsc. Posters can also be submitted by mail to CPSC Poster Contest, 4330 East West Hwy, Rm. 519, Bethesda, MD 20814

WOW: Prize Money will be awarded to the top nine finalists!

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission is charged with protecting the public from unreasonable risks of injury or death from over 15,000 types of consumer products under the agency's jurisdiction. Deaths, injuries and property damage from consumer product incidents cost the nation more than \$800 billion annually. The CPSC is committed to protecting consumers and families from products that pose a fire, electrical, chemical, or mechanical hazard. CPSC's work to ensure the safety of consumer products - such as toys, cribs, power tools, cigarette lighters, and household chemicals – contributed significantly to the 30 percent decline in the rate of deaths and injuries associated with consumer products over the past 30 years.

FIRE SERVICE PROMOTIONAL PREPARATION CLASSES BY ANDONI KASTROS:



MASTERING THE FIRE SERVICE ASSESSMENT CENTER

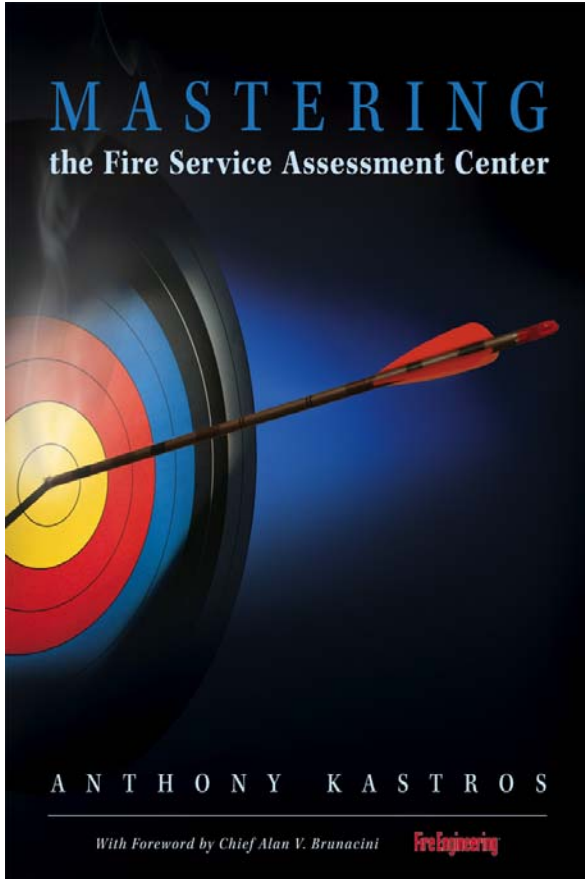
4-DAY WORKSHOP

INSTRUCTOR: ANTHONY KASTROS, AUTHOR OF

MASTERING THE FIRE SERVICE ASSESSMENT CENTER
BY FIRE ENGINEERING

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

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



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

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

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

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

**SEPTEMBER 28 – OCTOBER 1, 2010 – MONTEREY, CA
\$495.00***

**GO TO WWW.TRAINFIREFIGHTERS.COM FOR ONLINE REGISTRATION
CLASS SIZE LIMITED TO DUE TO DEPTH OF INSTRUCTION**

FIRE SERVICE INFORMATION FROM THE EVERYONE GOES HOME FOUNDATION:

FIREFIGHTER LIFE SAFETY

LEARNING

Media CENTER

Everyone Goes Home® Learning Media Center E-Alert -
September 9, 2010



www.EveryoneGoesHome.com
EVERYONE GOES HOME
**Seat Belts
Vehicle Accidents
Visibility**

This Month's Feature
[Seat Belts, Vehicle Accidents, Visibility](#)

This clip focuses on apparatus and roadway safety including: wearing your seat belt, preventing vehicle accidents, and visibility while working in the roadway.

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

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



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

NATIONAL FALLEN FIREFIGHTERS FOUNDATION

Homeland Security

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

» For More Information Visit: www.everyonegoeshome.com

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

National Fire Academy Launches Green Initiative

In an effort to reduce paper use and waste, the National Fire Academy (NFA) is pilot testing a program to have student manuals delivered on compact disk. In the last few years, students have regularly encouraged the NFA to reduce paper usage and to focus on “green” efforts. Excess baggage fees charged by airlines provided added impetus to switch to the electronic option. Often, at the end of each class cycle, NFA staff finds a number of student manuals discarded; of no use to anyone because they’ve been written in or otherwise made unusable. Students attending the NFA in November will be the first who are able to obtain the entire student manual on compact disk when they arrive at the National Emergency Training Center in Emmitsburg, Maryland. They may choose to use their laptop computers in the classroom to capture instructor comments, student interactions and activity outcomes. Traditional paper-based student manuals will be available in the classroom, and these books will be reused for future classes. Reusing these manuals also will reduce printing costs.

NFA Superintendent Dr. Denis Onieal said that once the results of the pilot are assessed, it may lead to more manuals presentation information being available on line. This has the potential to reduce paper usage, and save the National Fire Academy up to \$128,000 per year in production costs. NFA creates approximately 8,500 student manuals each year. Students will see the added advantage of not having to pay excess baggage fees to carry their paper-based manuals home. “An additional benefit to this method will enable us to keep student manuals more current in response to emerging trends and issues,” Onieal said. “We will be able to provide students the most current data and information by electronically updating the course manuals.” Documents will be in Portable Document Format (PDF) and require the Adobe Acrobat Reader to open them. Students can use the Comment and Markup feature available within Adobe Acrobat Reader to type and save notes. If students elect to do so, they can print paper copies of the materials on their home computers and printers.

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



Focus on Fire Safety: Preparedness

September 2010 marks the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) 7th annual [National Preparedness Month](#). This year's focus is on making sure that your family plans and prepares for disasters. In most types of disaster-related emergencies, the risk of fire is increased due to loose electrical wires, flooding, broken gas lines, or the lack of electricity. When preparing for the possibility of fire in your home, it is important to ensure you establish and practice an emergency escape plan and install and maintain smoke alarms and residential fire sprinklers. If young children, older adults, or those with special needs live in your home, plan and practice an appropriate fire escape plan. ***Be fire wise ... prepare, plan and stay informed!*** [Learn More About Fire Safety and Preparedness »](#)

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:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Wednesday September 15, 2010 from 1230 to 1700 hours (San Francisco, CA)- Thursday September 16, 2010 from 1030 to 1700 hours (San Francisco, CA)- Thursday November 11, 2010 from 1230 to 1700 hours (San Francisco, CA)- Friday November 12, 2010 from 1030 to 1700 hours (San Francisco, CA) <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>
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

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

FIREFIGHTER FATALITY INFORMATION:

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

Name: Douglas Farrington
Rank: Firefighter
Age: 44
Gender: Male
Classification: Volunteer
Years of Service: 26
Date of Incident: 08/22/2010
Time of Incident: 2121hrs
Date of Death: 08/23/2010
Fire Department: Delta-Cardiff Volunteer Company
Department Address: PO Box 15, 500 Main ST, Delta, PA 17314
Fire Department Chief: Jeffery Griffith

Incident Description: Firefighter Farrington responded the fire station to man a backup engine as the company responded to a barn fire in Peach Bottom Township of York County, PA. After the fire company returned to the station, Farrington assisted in cleaning and a putting away the equipment and then went home at approximately 2330hrs. The following morning after he had reported to duty at his full-time job with the Aberdeen Proving Ground Fire Department, Firefighter Farrington stayed just a short time and then returned home where he passed away from a fatal heart attack at approximately 1116hrs.

Incident Location: 690 Nace RD, Peach Bottom Township, PA

Viewing: 08/26/2010 at the Delta Fire Company from 1500-2100hrs. A fire company memorial service will be conducted at the Delta Fire Company beginning at 2030hrs (08/26/2010).

Funeral Arrangements: 08/27/2010 with a viewing at 1300-1400hrs and service at 1400hrs, Mason Dixon Fairgrounds, 6988 Delta Road, Delta, PA. Interment will follow the funeral at Highview Cemetery, Fallston, MD.

Memorial Fund Contact and Address: Kelsey Farrington Trust Fund, PNC Bank, 2334 Rock Spring RD, Forest Hill, MD, 21050.

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

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

To date, 53 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2010: 51 from incidents occurring in 2010 and 2 from previous year incidents. Year-to-date monthly and annual USFA firefighter fatality reports are posted

http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/statistics/ff_stats.shtm

AND:

Name: Larry Suiter
Rank: Fire Chief
Age: 66
Gender: Male
Status: Volunteer
Years of Service: 40
Date of Incident: 09/03/2010
Time of Incident: Pending
Date of Death: 09/04/2010
Fire Department: Lorraine Green Garden Fire Department
Address: PO Box 81, Lorraine, KS 67459-0081
Fire Department Chief: Pending

Incident Description: Fire Chief Suiter responded to an anhydrous ammonia leak at a grain elevator. After returning home from the incident, Chief Suiter 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 Fire Chief Larry Suiter at
<http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/>

To date, 54 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2010; 52 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: John Kelly
Rank: Firefighter - Chief Driver
Age: 51
Gender: Male
Status: Volunteer
Years of Service: Pending
Date of Incident: 09/06/2010

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

Time of Incident: 1837hrs
Date of Death: 09/06/2010
Fire Department: Tarrytown Fire Department
Address: PO Box 158, Tarrytown, NY 10591
Fire Department Chief: Peter Saracelli
Fire Department Website: <http://tarrytownfd.org/>

Incident Description: Firefighter Kelly died after being overcome by fumes while climbing down into an approximately 15-foot manhole attempting to rescue a village Department of Public Works employee, Anthony Ruggiero, also a volunteer firefighter with Hope Hose Company Engine 79. Ruggiero, who also died in the incident, had been investigating a reported sewer system problem in the area and was overcome by fumes as he descended into the manhole. According to press reports, a hazardous materials team measured the oxygen level at 14 percent after the men were pulled out. An assistant fire chief for the fire department was quoted as saying he did not know if deadly gases were detected. Investigation of the incident by local and State authorities continues.

Incident Location: Pending

Funeral Arrangements: Pending

Memorial Fund Contact and Address: Pending

Tribute is being paid to Firefighter - Chief Driver John Kelly at <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/>

To date, 55 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2010; 53 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: Jonathan Lewis "Johnny" Littleton
Rank: Captain
Age: 40
Gender: Male
Status: Volunteer
Years of Service: 5
Date of Incident: 08/19/2010
Time of Incident: 2045hrs
Date of Death: 08/20/2010
Fire Department: Pine Level Fire Department
Address: PO Box 609, 110 W Main ST, Pine Level, NC 27568
Fire Department Chief: Stephen Holloman

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

Incident Description: Captain Littleton was participating in fire department training when he started feeling ill and departed early for his residence. Captain Littleton was discovered the following day at his residence having passed away from a cause still to be determined.

Incident Location: 223 Davis Mill RD, Pine Level.

Funeral Arrangements: 08/24/2010

Memorial Fund Contact and Address: In lieu of flowers the family asks that memorial contributions be made to the Pine Level Police Department, P. O. Box 128, Pine Level, NC 27568 or the Pine Level Fire Department, P. O. Box 609, Pine Level, NC 27568 for their respective benevolence funds.

Tribute is being paid to Captain Jonathan Lewis "Johnny" Littleton at <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/>

To date, 56 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2010; 54 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 Eckert
Rank:	Firefighter
Age:	71
Gender:	Male
Status:	Volunteer
Years of Service:	30+
Date of Incident:	06/01/2010
Date of Death:	06/06/2010
Fire Department:	Stafford Township Fire Department
Address:	PO Box 171, Manahawkin, NJ 08050
Fire Department Chief:	Dean Cleland

Incident Description: Stafford Township Fire Department was dispatched to a fire call. Upon his pager alerting FF Eckert walked across his living room to go to his vehicle to respond to the call. At this point, he fell to the floor. He was reported to be disoriented. EMS responded and he was transported to the local hospital. His condition deteriorated and he passed away on June 6, 2010 from what was discovered to have been a brain hemorrhage.

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

To date, 57 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2010; 55 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

BRAZILIAN FIREFIGHTER LODD-EXPLOSION

A Volunteer Industrial Firefighter was killed in the Line of Duty by an explosion in a chemical factory in the State of São Paulo, Brazil, on Sunday, August, 15th. Reports are that there was a first explosion with no one injured and as Firefighters were responding and then operating, another explosion occurred that killed the FF and injured 2 others. As always, our sincere condolences to all affected.

SLOW DOWN & MOVE OVER - Check out this **OUTSTANDING** video from the Delaware Fire Service: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JwJQhDaaz0>

The above national PSA urging motorists to "slow down and move over" premiered yesterday at the Delaware City (DE) Fire Company. It's a joint venture between the Delaware City Fire Company and the Cumberland Valley Volunteer Firemen's Association to educate the public about dangers associated with passing responders working on the roadways. The project was launched at the request of the Delaware City Fire Company following the Line of Duty Death of FF/EMT Michelle Smith, who was struck while operating at a crash in December of 2008. The CVVFA produced the PSA with the USFA and with funding from DOJ.

HERE is the USFA Roadway Safety Project Page:

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

WHO is in COMMAND at YOUR fire scene? WHAT is their Training & Qualifications?
THE BLUE SOLUTION (Details on a 2.5 day seminar)

A few months ago we told you about the Blue Card Command Certification program. With that, Chief Alan Brunacini is now hosting a two-and-half day conference. The first annual Brunacini Hazard Zone Management Conference is the result of the collaboration of many national experts and world-renowned speakers in the fire service. The Hazard Zone Management Conference will take place at the University of Notre Dame in South Bend,

Indiana, on October 18th to 20th, 2010. This conference will focus on all 3 of the major hazard zone breakdowns that are killing and injuring firefighters today; incident command systems, the critical decision-making process, along with the most up to date and inclusive fire/ burn studies done over the past two years. **This is a "WELL WORTH IT" training event.** MORE HERE: <https://www.regonline.ca/hazardzoneseminar>

FLINT CRITICAL FIREFIGHTER INJURY UPDATE (Video):

FLINT (MI) Firefighter improves, now in fair condition:

<http://abclocal.go.com/wjrt/story?section=news/local&id=7617085>

MANY FIREFIGHTERS RIDE MOTORCYCLES.....

Avon FD of Lorain County (Ohio) has lost one of their Firefighters (Monday evening) in a tragic motorcycle accident when he lost control and struck a pole. FF Kevin Criss of the AFD was killed instantly. Kevin was a 4.5 year member of the Avon FD as a career firefighter, and he previously worked for Carlisle VFD and Lifecare Ambulance. FF Criss, 31, leaves behind a wife and a 2-year-old son. This is one of several tragic off duty bike crashes affecting firefighters all over the USA and Canada-and is just a reminder to use extreme caution when out there.

FINAL NOTE, our condolences on the sudden passing of Chief John Callahan, San Luis Obispo FD (Cal), who died suddenly of a heart attack yesterday. He was 61. Callahan was appointed chief in 2005, after 32 years in the LAFD, where he retired as D/C. He was expected to retire from SLO in November. More Here:

<http://www.sanluisobispo.com/2010/08/18/1255937/slo-fire-chief-callahan-dies-of.html#ixzz0x4OXWxlj>

FOLLOW THE SECRET LIST ON FACEBOOK: <http://tinyurl.com/y855vmt>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL,

BillyG

The Secret List 8-19-10 / 1233 Hours

AND:

Hey,

A group of Firefighters from Napanee, Ontario (a small city of 15,000 approximately 3 hours east of Toronto, Canada) were returning home from a competition in Windsor (on the border near Detroit) when they were involved in a crash that sent a number of them to hospital. Upon hearing of this, doing the right thing, the Napanee FD leadership chartered a bus to take the family members to visit the injured Firefighters in the hospital and bring them all back together, rather than risk them all driving separately on the busiest highway in North America. After picking up most of the injured Firefighters (1 remained in hospital from the first crash) the bus had been on the road for about an hour (this morning around 0600 hours) when it suddenly, in rainy conditions, left the roadway and apparently went airborne for a while before coming to rest in a ditch. Tragically, a Firefighters wife, was killed in the 2nd crash and 12 others were sent to hospital by air and ground EMS ambulances. The victim who died as a result of the crash was identified as 49-year-old Darlene Goodfellow, a mother of three, whose husband David, a Firefighter, remains in hospital with head injuries. **HERE are more details:**

<http://www.thestar.com/news/ontario/article/850959--woman-dead-after-bus-rollover-on-hwy-401?bn=1>

<http://www.lfpress.com/news/london/2010/08/22/15102276.html>

<http://kingstonherald.com/news/napanee-firefighters-401-bus-crash-201031829/>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL,

BillyG

The Secret List 8-22-10 / 1836 Hours

AND:

PA FIREFIGHTER DIES IN THE LINE OF DUTY-HEART ATTACK

We regret to advise you that Delta-Cardiff Volunteer Fire Company President / Firefighter Douglas Farrington died Monday in the Line of Duty. He would have been 45 in October. He died from a massive heart attack. Firefighter Farrington responded the fire station to staff a backup engine as the company responded to a barn fire in Peach Bottom Township of York County, PA. After the fire company returned to the station, FF Farrington assisted in cleaning and a putting away the equipment and then went home at approximately 2330hrs. The following morning after he had reported to duty at his full-time job with the Aberdeen Proving Grounds Fire Department, Firefighter Farrington stayed just a short time and then returned home where he passed away from a fatal heart attack at approximately 1116 hrs. FF Farrington had also served as a Lt and Captain at the DCVFC. As always our sincere condolences.

REMEMBER BUFFALO-ONE YEAR AGO (SCENE VIDEO)

It's been one year since BFD Firefighter Jonathan Croom and Lt. Chip McCarthy died in the Line of Duty while operating in a building fire on Genesee Street. As a result of the deaths, some changes have been made within the Buffalo Fire Department. Croom and McCarthy entered the burning building, thinking someone was trapped. Later it was determined that wasn't the case. Now a new accountability system has been put into place. "It became more real that bad things can happen. We're more cautious," said BFD Capt. Clotfelter. **R.I.P.**

HERE IS VIDEO FROM THAT FIRE: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Beh4EiWf_TU

AIRBORNE CRASH VIDEO

While all of us have responded and arrived at bad crashes, rarely are they caught on tape prior to arrival-like this one from Ohio on Interstate 675 on Monday morning. The car hit a culvert, and launched in the air and struck the overpass. The force of the crash broke the car apart and ejected the driver onto the highway during the morning rush hour. He remains at Miami Valley Hospital after suffering serious injuries. A police cruiser camera caught the crash HERE:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f9UsFvN9_Jo&feature=youtube_gdata_player

NY FIREFIGHTER RESPONDING ON A RUN STRUCK BY ANOTHER FF ALSO RESPONDING:

A South Wilson (NY) Volunteer Firefighter was injured Monday when he was hit by a vehicle driven by another Volunteer FF as he crossed the road responding to a call. The injured FF was crossing the street responding to a minor industrial accident and was struck by the vehicle of the other FF. He received minor injuries.

CHICAGO: IAFC's FIRE RESCUE INTERNATIONAL THIS WEEK AT McCORMICK PLACE:

Looking forward to seeing many of you at F.R.I. in Chicago. If interested, you are **very** welcome to attend the IAFC Safety, Health and Survival Section meeting on Friday, 1300 Hours in McCormick Place. **DETAILS HERE:**

http://www.iafcsafety.org/downloads/SHS_Membership_Mtg_Agenda_8.10.pdf

VISITING CHICAGO FOR F.R.I.?

==THE 1967 McCORMICK PLACE FIRE - INCREDIBLE RADIO AUDIO RECORDING:

==F.R.I. FIRE VISITOR INFO:

On January 16, 1967, there was a massive fire at McCormick Place in Chicago (more below). The audio of that fire is BELOW (that's to the 5-11 Club of the CFD) and well worth listening to, and the quality is very clear.

In part 1 you will hear the very classic line from the Chief of the CFD's 9th Battalions aide: "Battalion 9A to Main (fire alarm office), look, we got this McCormick hall and it's really rolling, I'm going to talk to the chief, I think we'll hit a deuce" That was the 2nd (2-11) alarm, and many, many more alarms followed:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EV_50YPqIFQ (PART 1 INITIAL RADIO TRAFFIC)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zYZCj9VAHZ0> (PART 2 CONTINUED)

At the time of the fire, the building contained highly flammable exhibits, several area hydrants were shut off, and the sprinklers were inadequate. The fire spread quickly (as you will hear on the above audio) and destructively, taking the life of a security guard. Although many wanted to rebuild the hall on a different site, Chicago Mayor Richard J. Daley (whose son is now the Mayor of Chicago) elected to rebuild on the foundations of the burned building. So as you walk the halls this week and attend the training sessions, now you'll know a bit of the history.

RELATED CHICAGO FD PAGES & INFORMATION FOR CONFERENCE ATTENDEES ABOUT THE CFD:

http://www.chicagofirevideo.com/5-11_Club/info/response.html (CFD RESPONSE GUIDELINES)

http://www.5-11club.org/5-11_Club/info/frequencies.html (CFD RADIO INFO)

http://www.5-11club.org/5-11_Club/info/terminology.html (CFD'S UNIQUE TERMINOLOGY)

<http://www.chicagofd.org/> (MORE VIDEO/AUDIO)

<http://www.cityofchicago.org/city/en/depts/cfd.html> (CFD'S HOME PAGE)

<http://www.iaff-local2.org/index.cfm?section=1> (CFD'S IAFF LOCAL 2 HOME PAGE)

Seeya there.

Take Care,

BillyG

The Secret List 8-24-10 / 2118 Hours

AND:

Hey,

Take time to remember FDNY Lt. Howard J. Carpluk, Jr. of Engine 42 and Probationary Firefighter Michael Reilly of Engine 75 in the Bronx who were killed in the Line of Duty on August 27 2006. Lt. Carpluk, 43, a 20-year vet of the FDNY, died from the critical injuries

he sustained at a 3 alarm fire in the South Bronx on August 27-he died the next day. During his career, Lt. Carpluk received two citations for bravery, including one award for a heroic rescue on March 30, 1988, when he saved the lives of two unconscious men he found in the bedroom of a well involved apartment in the Bronx. He was survived by his wife Debra, his now 12-year-old daughter Paige and his 16-year-old son Bradley. Lt. Carpluk died in the Line of Duty while heroically attempting to save the life of Probationary Firefighter Michael Reilly. PFF Reilly also died in the Line of Duty that day. 3 other FDNY members were seriously injured in the fire but survived. **MORE ABOUT THE FIRE HERE:**

<http://www.firehouse.com/node/41661>

BUFFALO UPDATE: Here is the NIOSH REPORT on the double LODD in Buffalo we wrote about yesterday: <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/reports/face200923.html>

MARYLAND FIRE COLLAPSE INJURES FIREFIGHTERS LAST NIGHT:

4 Firefighters were injured last night when a roof collapsed on their heads while they were cleaning up after a fire in Rockville. The box came in at 1925 hours for fire in a house undergoing renovations. The Firefighters were taken to the hospital with 3 of the 4 expected to be treated and released immediately. The 4th Firefighter had non life-threatening injuries, but may require more medical attention.

FIREFIGHTER CANCER - YOUR HELP NEEDED

As we previously mentioned, Portsmouth (NH) Firefighter Sarah Fox was diagnosed with breast cancer on October 9, 2007. **She was also 36 ½ weeks pregnant with twins.** Twelve hours later the twins were born making a family of seven. After several setbacks Sarah fought through the many challenges and treatments and beat the odds returning to work in January 2009. Just over a year later Sarah developed a pain in her hip which was discovered to be cancer. Sarah, her husband Matt and their 5 children and family are faced with the fight against cancer once again. As a gesture of our support for Sarah and to bring awareness to breast cancer Portsmouth Fire has developed a very cool decal that's personalized to show support of Sarah. Displaying the decal shows not only that we love and support Sarah but we support finding a cure for a disease that tears families apart. To purchase a decal go HERE: <http://pffca.org/>

Also, a **REMINDER for ANY** Firefighter or their family members that are dealing with CANCER, go to: www.FireFighterCancerSupport.org -they offer numerous services, support and help.

FREE ROADWAY SURVIVAL TRAINING FOR FIREFIGHTERS

Best Practices for Emergency Vehicle and Roadway Operations Safety Guide has been released by USFA in partnership with IAFF as part of an initiative to improve emergency vehicle and roadway operations safety for firefighters and law enforcement officers. (Free Download) - <http://www.iaff.org/hs/EVSP/guides.html>

AT F.R.I. ? Something FREE!

If interested, you can receive FREE working fire incident paging of the CFD while in Chicago for F.R.I. courtesy of Fire Net Chicago. Details of working fires and incidents will be sent to your cell phone, iPhone, Blackberry, Droid, e-mail etc. If interested, contact them ASAP at information@firenetchicago.net or go to <http://www.firenetchicago.net/> and advise them of

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your interest. They contacted us yesterday offering that to any attendees at Fire Rescue International this week in Chicago.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 8-26-10 / 1013 Hours

AND:

Hey,

A roof collapsed during a live fire training in Mint Hill (N.C.) yesterday afternoon. 2 Firefighters and a Fire Instructor from Central Piedmont Community College were hurt during the live burn. The building was used for training to make way for a school to rebuild and expand. Idlewild Fire Assistant Chief Brian White said weeks of preparation and training beforehand helped to ensure all 3 Firefighters made it out with only minor injuries. "We had all the backup procedure rescue teams and so forth in place. They were able to evacuate all Firefighters out of building very quickly," White said. The firefighters suffered minor burns, while another person suffered a sprained ankle. Several of the sites (school) teachers and families were also outside to witness the live fire training and incident. Nearly 70 firefighters and EMS from Matthews, Mint Hill, and Matthews participated in the live fire training detail.

N.C. VIDEO - LOCAL NEWS REPORT: <http://tinyurl.com/39tb7gb>

WATCH: RELATED CLOSE CALL VIDEO/LIVE FIRE TRAINING:

(Determination of WHEN to get out, or should have gotten out, is clearly demonstrated in this clip) <http://www.firefighterspot.com/2010/08/live-burn-training-video.html>

RELATED LIVE FIRE TRAINING LINKS:

<http://tinyurl.com/2ctgnnd> (Heed The Lessons of Live Fire Training LODD's)

<http://tinyurl.com/2f44nhl> (Related Live Fire Training LODD Reports)

<http://tinyurl.com/3yev6q5> (Planning an NFPA 1403 Compliant Live Fire Training Burn)

<http://www.firefighterclosecalls.com/news/fullstory/newsid/36756> (Live Fire Training Story)

http://www.firefighterclosecalls.com/cc_training.php (Related Training Incidents)

MORE WEEKLY FIRE DRILLS HERE: <http://www.firefighterclosecalls.com/weeklydrills.php>

NEW JERSEY FIREFIGHTER IN ICU:

A 2 alarm fire hit an Atlantic City rooming house late last night, displacing 37 people and putting a Firefighter in ICU for smoke inhalation. Before companies arrived, a woman on the 2nd floor threw her two children out of a window to bystanders below, then jumped herself. The children were not hurt, but the woman was taken to the hospital.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 8-29-10 / 1506 Hours

AND:

Hey,

Early this morning an auto repair shop fire that caused an estimated \$2 million damage sent 4 Firefighters to the hospital **FROM EXTERIOR SMOKE & FUMES**. While "exactly what" was in the smoke hasn't been identified, (cyanide, CO, are typical at all fires) this is an excellent

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warning for all of us that operating exterior operations (in addition to interior) in smoke affect all on the scene (see below). **REMEMBER:** Modern science has changed the way fires burn. Your fires are hotter, flashovers are quicker and the smoke is much more toxic. As we have seen, Firefighters have been injured and have died from toxic chemicals like HCN and CO....which are at every fire you turnout on.

London (Ontario, Canada) Fire Services Platoon Chief Paul Carew said 4 Firefighters were sent to hospital within 10 minutes of arriving at the scene last night. Chief Carew said the Firefighters were still setting up to operate at the fire when they were overcome by noxious fumes from the fire. The Chief said there was auto paint and gasoline, along with highly explosive propane and acetylene present in the building, which includes an auto body shop with "typical" combustibles.

The Firefighters hadn't yet packed up when the wind turned around, sending the smoke and fumes their way. 2 Firefighters have been released while two remain in the hospital awaiting the results of blood tests. The Chief said the department may now consider a change of policy and require firefighters to put on the breathing gear even as they set up for interior ops. The London FF's have an excellent history related to safety, health and survival, it seems this could have happened to ANY FD arriving on the scene and serves as an excellent reminder of "what may be in the smoke" we are exposed to today....

FIREFIGHTERS, SMOKE, CARBON MONOXIDE & CYANIDE LINKS:

As we and so many others have shared for years, **DON'T BREATHE THAT CRAP**, (inside and out) here are some links that will help. **REMEMBER:** Hydrogen Cyanide (HCN) poisoning is the reality on YOUR fireground. HCN together with carbon monoxide can create a deadly cocktail, while each deadly gas alone may be at sub IDLH levels.

IMPORTANT LINKS HERE:

(Please take time to check them ALL out and review with your Firefighters and EMS Members)

<http://www.draeger.com/local/US/HCN/index.html> (Excellent WEBINAR From Noted S.M.E.'s Fire Capt. Rick Rochford & Lt. Anthony Toro)

<http://tinyurl.com/234qh5t> (Firefighters, Parkinsons & The Smoke We Breathe)

<http://www.firesmoke.org/> (Cyanide Poisoning Coalition: NUMEROUS Articles & Resources For FF's)

<http://tinyurl.com/32pa9gl> (How Much Of A Threat Is Cyanide To Firefighters?)

<http://www.local799.com/docs/pfdcyanidereport.pdf> (Report: FF's Poisoned on Fire Scene in R.I.)

<http://www.firerehab.com/Columnists/Masimo-Inc/> (CO Poisoning of Firefighters)

<http://tinyurl.com/39xld8w> (CO on The Fireground)

<http://tinyurl.com/27753wu> (Fire Engineering Article)

<http://tinyurl.com/26hvfmp> (Fire Engineering Discussion)

DRASTIC FIRE DEPARTMENT CUTS:

This morning, we were advised of some incredible and drastic cuts to one Indiana fire department. The 21 members of the Madison Twp. Fire Department, Morgan County (IAFF Local 4555) were informed this morning that effective today, the following will occur:

1. All Fire Fighter pay has been reduced to minimum wage.
2. Daily staffing is reduced to from 9 to 5.
3. Station 32 is closed (8-30-10)
4. Fire Fighter paid hours are reduced to one 24 hour shift per week.
5. Health insurance for members and dependents will cease Oct. 1
6. No overtime or training for the remainder of the year.

For additional details, contact the Prof. FF's Assoc. of Indiana: <http://www.pffui.com/>
Take Care-BE CAREFUL,
BillyG
The Secret List 8-30-10 / 1334 Hours

AND:

RESPONDING EMS HELICOPTER CRASH KILLS 3 IN THE LINE OF DUTY-ARKANSAS

We regret to advise you that 3 crew members of an AirEvac Lifeteam EMS helicopter were killed in the Line of Duty early this morning while responding to a serious vehicle crash in central Arkansas. The Air Evac Lifeteam helicopter was flying to pick up a traffic crash victim when it went down near the Scotland community in Van Buren County (80 miles north of Little Rock) at about 4:30 a.m. The helicopter, built in 1978, was registered to Air Evac EMS Inc., based in West Plains, Mo. There apparently was no distress call and the cause of the crash wasn't immediately known. Air Evac has experienced several fatal crashes in recent years. In 2008, an Air Evac helicopter crashed in an Indiana cornfield killing three people. In 2007, another three-member crew was killed when an Air Evac helicopter crashed in Colbert County, Ala. In 2006, an Air Evac helicopter crashed in Gentry in northwest Arkansas, killing the three-member crew and last month, an Air Evac helicopter made a forced landing near Tulsa, Okla., after the aircraft's hydraulics failed. No one was hurt.

REMINDER: 9/11 is ONE WEEK FROM THIS SATURDAY:

GO HERE for Your FD's 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony: [http://www.fire-police-ems.com/misc/\\$9-11.shtml](http://www.fire-police-ems.com/misc/$9-11.shtml)

NATIONAL FALLEN FIREFIGHTERS INFORMATION AND UPDATES FOR YOU AND YOUR SCHEDULE:

1-Memorial Weekend is approaching. The 2010 dates are October 2 and 3. If you have never been, this is a MUST for your "to do" list. Trust us. Watch a special message from NFFF Executive Director Ron Siarnicki outlining ways you can help honor the nation's fallen firefighters. Memorial Weekend message: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sgj9Kj2J7y4>

2-Do you have the 2010 National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Weekend Tribute Widget on your website? Honor the firefighters being remembered at this year's Memorial Weekend by placing this special tribute on your website. Each day we will feature one of the 80 firefighters who died in the line of duty in 2009 along with 25 who died in previous years. Firefighter Close Calls is one of the more than 100 websites and blogs carrying the widget so far. WHY NOT make sure your department has the widget added to its homepage. Get the code: <http://weekend.firehero.org/widget/>

3-A Memorial Weekend Tradition Now Online: Sign the Remembrance Banner

The Remembrance Banner is a Memorial Weekend tradition that allows family members to write messages to their fallen firefighters. Write your thoughts about a relative, friend or colleague who has been honored at Emmitsburg. Also, if you've attended or volunteered at a previous Memorial Weekend, share a special memory with us or pay tribute to a fallen hero. **The Virtual Remembrance Banner:** <http://weekend.firehero.org/remembrance/banner.php>

4-ATTENTION RACE FANS: Hurry - Tickets for the 3rd Annual Firefighter Appreciation Event at Dover's Monster Mile® Are Going Fast! Don't miss out on this special event pre-race celebration and race No. 2 in the "Chase for the NASCAR Sprint Cup" at Dover, DE! For just \$99 you get: a race ticket, trackside tour, corporate style hospitality, and special guest appearances. Proceeds benefit the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation. Get your tickets today: <http://www.doverspeedway.com/nfff10> (Enter Code NFFF10)

5-ATTENTION BASEBALL FANS: Go To Bat for the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation! Team up with State Farm® and MLB® to support the charity of your choice and you could win a trip for 2 to the 2010 MLB® World Series®! Simply pick the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation (NFFF) as your charity, play the Go To Bat game online and swing for the fences. Go to bat for us today: <http://www.statefarm.com/gotobat>
Take Care-BE CAREFUL,
BillyG
The Secret List 8-31-10 / 1131 Hours

AND

Hey,

If you have not yet had a chance to view this "first due on arrival" video from Collingdale (PA) this week, then this **VIDEO clip is a MUST:**

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6Pp1KMNaTJg> - The above clip makes for an excellent "size up, command and control on arrival" review for any of us. That video shows the series of explosions and heavy fire conditions at a welding supply company on Wednesday that injured 5 people and forced evacuations with black smoke showing over the area. The fire and explosions at Scully Welding Supply happened around 1300 hours in an industrial area about seven miles southwest of Philadelphia,

MORE from Philly Fire News: <http://www.phillyfirenews.com/content/firewire/detail/4568.php>

STATE TROOPER STRUCK AND KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY: CONNECTICUT

Because it could have been a FF or an EMT, we are reminded again of the dangers of any of us operating on the roadways. Yesterday, Connecticut State Police said the driver of a pickup truck that crashed into the rear of Trooper Kenneth Hall's cruiser had been traveling at a high rate of speed and crossed two lanes of traffic when the crash occurred about 4 p.m. Trooper Hall had been sitting in his cruiser (which, in our field could be a staff car, an EMS response unit, etc) writing out a ticket after pulling over another vehicle. Trooper Hall, a married father, was taken to a trauma center where he was pronounced dead. Our most sincere condolences to all affected. **HERE** is a photo so you have an idea of the devastation of this crash: <http://tinyurl.com/2vqp5u9>

RESPONDING FIRE APPARATUS ENDS UP IN A HOLE

Firefighters in Zadar (Croatia) were responding to a fire. While responding, the front of their apparatus suddenly dropped into an empty septic tank 2.6 meters deep. It was an illegal dump site and was covered with camouflage. NOTE the t-shirts that the Croatian FF's are wearing. Firefighters suffered minor injuries. **VIDEO HERE:** <http://www.vatrogasni-portal.com/news.php?readmore=5163>

BILLING FOR FIRE & RESCUE SERVICES:

Here is an interesting article related to fire departments that bill for non-EMS details, such as vehicles crashes. This is another example of how communities are attempting to come up with creative alternative funding, and the reaction some have to that attempt. HOW is this related to FF safety, health and survival? Fire departments require funding. Career. Volunteer. Call. Whatever. It has to come from somewhere or the public needs to start getting used to serves that look much different than in children's story books.

HERE is the article: <http://tinyurl.com/2bh7ht3>

USE CAUTION THIS WEEKEND IF COLLECTING FOR MDA.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL,

BillyG

The Secret List 9-3-10 / 1708 Hours

AND

KS FIRE CHIEF DIES IN THE LINE OF DUTY FOLLOWING A HAZ MAT RUN

It is with deep regret that we, along with the Lorraine FD and the Kansas State FF's Association announce the Line of Duty Death of Chief Larry Suiter, 64. Chief Suiter had responded to an anhydrous ammonia leak at Lorraine grain elevator, last night, the evening of September 3, 2010. Chief Suiter passed away at his home in the early morning hours today, September 4, 2010. He leaves to mourn his passing, his wife Rosy, of the home and two children, Diana and Thomas, as well as his entire fire service family. Chief Suiter had been with the department for 40 years, 25 of which was as chief of department. Funeral details are pending and will be posted as soon as they are made. As always our most sincere condolences.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL

BillyG

The Secret List 9-4-10 1956 hours

AND

REMINDER: NEXT SATURDAY IS 9/11. IF YOUR FD/EMS/RESCUE or PD HAS NOT YET PLANNED YOUR REMEMBERANCE CEREMONY-IT IS NOT TOO LATE-GO HERE FOR THE DETAILS:

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

Video: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1yxSlf9I9IQ>

While we are all busy, we cannot be too busy to forget.

Hey,

4 Bridgman (MI) Firefighters were tossed into Lake Michigan's extremely rough waters Friday afternoon after their rescue boats capsized while searching for a victim in the water. The BFD

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members all suffered from extreme exhaustion and water inhalation but all had non-life-threatening injuries. At 1000 hours on Friday, a rip current statement was issued by the NWS, warning people to stay out of Lake Michigan. Bridgman Fire and Rescue turned out for mutual aid with Lincoln Township for the water rescue just after 1600 hours at a private beach where 3 men were swimming in high waves (ignoring the warning) and were caught in the very rough current. Sadly, the 26-year-old Chicago resident is presumed drowned. Rescue attempts were limited because of high winds and strong rip currents. A Coast Guard helicopter searched the area without success.

LONG ISLAND FIRE & COLLAPSE

An East Farmingdale Volunteer Fire Company (Suffolk County, NY) FF was injured yesterday after the roof of a burning building collapsed, burying the Firefighter. Numerous FD's responded to the Lindenhurst fire at about 0200 hours at the commercial structure. As Firefighters attempted to enter the building, the roof and front wall of the building collapsed (see below). 1 FF remains in Good Sam hospital with fractures. 3 other members others were taken to hospitals, but not admitted.

2 PHOTO LINKS HERE: <http://tinyurl.com/2eaw5wn> & <http://tinyurl.com/25728ff>

According to unofficial reports, this fire was transmitted by way of radio by an EMS unit returning to quarters. They discovered the fire in a 1 story large commercial building used as a food processing plant. There was heavy fire and fire was through the roof on the arrival of the first due companies. The building was reportedly constructed of non combustible materials including cinder block walls with a brick facade, metal bar joist roof covered with "Q" decking and membrane roof. Unknown if sprinklered. Reports are that shortly after the arrival of the first due companies and while the first lines were being stretched and forcible entry was being made, a collapse of the exterior brick facade, going down on 3 Firefighters who were forcing entry to gain access. According to some on the scene, the collapse occurred without warning. There was no visible bulging of the exterior wall nor was there any smoke pushing through mortar cracks, however there was fire thru the roof and considerable fire advancement. This has been a busy week for Firefighters in the Suffolk County (Long Island, NY) Town of Babylon with several other multi-alarm fires, including an equivalent 5th alarm in Amityville: **VIDEO:** <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zFyIFNUwZuQ>

NY FIREFIGHTER SUCCUMBS TO CANCER IN THE LINE OF DUTY:

It is with deepest regret and sorrow to report the Line of Duty death of Rochester (NY) Fire Lieutenant Paul B. Skelly of Rochester Fire Fighters, IAFF Local 1071. Lt. Skelly, 49, passed away yesterday, Saturday, September 4, 2010 at 2205 Hours from cancer. DETAILS HERE: www.iaff1071.org As always, our sincere condolences.

=====FIREFIGHTER CANCER SUPPORT UPDATE:

**ARE YOU ATTENDING THE FIREFIGHTER CANCER SUPPORT GALA?
IF NOT, YOU CAN STILL SUPPORT THEM AND SIGN UP FOR THE VERY COOL
RAFFLES:**

Please consider joining the **Firefighter Cancer Support Network (FCSN)** for their Annual Gala fundraiser, "Fight Cancer with Fire," on September 19th, 2010 at the historic Langham Huntington Hotel in Pasadena, CA. This year's gala will be another memorable evening hosted by Los Angeles television reporter Rick Chambers with amazing performances by

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visual artist Michael Israel and comedienne Paula Poundstone. All proceeds from the gala will directly benefit FCSN, a 501(C3) non-profit organization, whose mission is to provide assistance and support to firefighters everywhere battling cancer. Founded by LACoFD, Firefighter Paramedic Mike Dubron following his personal battle with cancer, FCSN has led the way in support, education, resources and countless means of assisting ALL firefighters and their dealing with cancer. Everyone knows someone, a colleague, friend, or family member who has been affected by cancer. Please support this important event that truly touches us all. **GO TO:** www.FireFighterCancerSupport.org

If you cannot attend, please consider a donation from your company, department, local, association or a personal donation.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL. PLAN Your 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony, you are not THAT busy to forget.

BillyG

The Secret List 9-5-10 / 1220 Hours

AND:

TARRYTOWN (NY) FIREFIGHTER DIES IN THE LINE OF DUTY-BELOW GRADE RESCUE ATTEMPT

We regret to advise you that 2 people have died, one being a Firefighter in the Line of Duty, after succumbing to fumes and falling down an approximately 15-foot man hole near the Consolidated Engine Company quarters in Tarrytown (Westchester County, NY-NYC suburb) around 1835 hours this evening. Initial reports are that a village worker was investigating a sewage backup in the area. The worker began to descend into the manhole and then fell backwards, apparently as a result of hazardous fumes that had built up in the sewer. A Tarrytown Firefighter descended after the man in a rescue attempt, but also was overcome by the fumes and fell in. The men were removed out of the man hole using a tripod and winch. They were then treated by Tarrytown Volunteer Ambulance Corps EMS and were immediately given CPR & ALS, taken to Westchester Medical Center in Valhalla, where they were both pronounced dead. More details to follow. As always, our most sincere condolences to all affected. **HERE** is the TFD's home page: <http://tarrytownfd.org>

CONFINED SPACE & TECH RESCUE STAND DOWN REMINDER FROM THE IAFC:

<http://www.iafc.org/displayindustryarticle.cfm?articlenbr=42979>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 9-6-10 / 2143 Hours

AND:

Hey,

In Massachusetts early this morning, a Somerville resident was injured after what appeared to be a freak accident at a fire scene. Initial details are that Firefighters were operating at a 2 alarm dwelling fire when a fire hose (apparently a supply line being laid) took down a fence in a nearby yard. The hose, which was attached to a hydrant, also took down a sign, which struck the resident in the head. The man, 48, suffered a fractured neck and a serious laceration on his head but was expected to recover. Reports are that the hose became entangled in another apparatus rear-wheel and that's what caused the problem. A Firefighter

was at the hydrant waiting to charge the line and was also knocked in into the air and landed on the ground but was not injured. We'll post more details on our home page.

TARRYTOWN NY LODD UPDATE:

It appears that both men killed were members of the Tarrytown Fire Department. HERE are more details, photos and some video:

<http://rivertowns.patch.com/articles/two-dead-after-falling-into-tarrytown-manhole>

AUSTRALIAN FIREFIGHTERS TOUR OF DUTY IN THE USA:

Australian firefighters arrived in Emmitsburg yesterday on the final stretch of their 4,600 mile cross-country run from Calif., to New York City. Their coast-to-coast trip is to commemorate emergency personnel and victims who died in the 9/11 terrorist attacks. The group of 36 is raising money for a variety of charities including the Tribute WTC Visitor Center: <http://www.tributewtc.org> and the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation www.Firehero.org among others. By the time the runners they will have crossed 20 states in about 31 days. The group is made up of first responders, firefighters, police officers and paramedics, which includes an American team. They intend to arrive at ground zero on Sept. 11. The run, they said, has been unforgettable, and the closer they get to New York, the more personal it becomes. MORE HERE: www.tourofduy.com.au

HAS YOUR FD PLANNED FOR THIS SATURDAY 9/11/10 ?

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

SEE YOU IN EMMITSBURG ON SUNDAY OCTOBER 3rd? NEVER BEEN? CLICK HERE:

<http://weekend.firehero.org/media/2010/>

The NFFF and USFA invite YOUR and YOUR FD to the 29th annual National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Weekend which will be held at the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg on October 2-3, 2010.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL,

BillyG

The Secret List 9-7-10 / 1009 Hours

AND:

Hey,

A 26-year-old Bowie (Prince George's County, MD) Volunteer Firefighter remains hospitalized after sustaining burn injuries while operating at a house fire on Saturday. Prince George's Firefighters from Largo, Bowie and surrounding communities responded to the fire on Saturday, September 4, 2010, just before 1930 hours. Fire/EMS units arrived at the 2-story single family home on Whistling Duck Way in Upper Marlboro to find heavy fire consuming the rear of the structure with extension up to and through the roof. Firefighters entered the structure and advanced hoselines to conduct a search and extinguish the fire. As a team of firefighters were advancing a hoseline up the stairs to attack the fire on the second floor the helmet of Fire Fighter Patrick Ivey was dislodged and knocked off (see details below). As he worked to put his helmet back in place debris fell from the ceiling striking him in the head. Fire Fighter Ivey replaced his helmet on his head and continued up the stairs with a hoseline. After several minutes of an interior attack and confirmation there were no occupants inside the home the fire continued to grown in intensity despite efforts of firefighters. Incident

Commander ordered all firefighters to evacuate the structure and fight the fire from the safety of the exterior.

Once outside, Fire Fighter Ivey removed his protective gear and was treated for burns on his head. In the short period of time that his helmet was knocked off, hot embers, or more then likely, some molten aluminum or metal came in contact with his head. The burning debris was so hot that Ivey sustained 3rd degree burns through the protective Nomex hood he was wearing. His helmet was strapped on but the force of it being knocked dislodged it from the top of his head. He was transported to the Burn Unit at the Washington Hospital Center where he remains today awaiting surgery. Firefighter Ivey was diagnosed with 3rd degree burns to his right side forward temporal area and to his right side scalp area approximately 3 inches above his right ear. Both burn areas were approximately 1 ¼ - 2" in diameter; about the size of a half-dollar coin. He will be undergoing his first surgery tomorrow at the Burn Center where Doctors will be debriding the burns on his head and scalp and then most likely will proceed to work on the burn near his temporal lobe with a grafting procedure. He will ultimately need some cosmetic surgery as well after the healing process begins.

Bowie Volunteer Chief Lee Havens stated that Patrick is in good spirits and is in the constant company of fellow Bowie Firefighters. He was visited by PG County Fire Chief Eugene A. Jones over the weekend and Acting Lt. Col. (Deputy Chief) Steve Hess. The bulk of the fire was knocked down in about 45 minutes by 40 firefighters with the fire being completely extinguished about 60 minutes later. The fire appears to have started on a rear deck and extended up the rear wall and into the second floor and attic. The exact cause of the fire remains under investigation. Fire loss is estimated at \$290,000. The Fire/EMS Department assisted the six displaced occupants, 3 adults and 3 children, with temporary shelter. Our thanks to TSL member, PG County Fire/EMS PIO Mark E. Brady for these details.

S.D. FIREFIGHTER CHARGED WITH DUI WHILE OPERATING FIRE APPARATUS

A Madison (South Dakota) Volunteer Firefighter is accused of driving a city fire truck under the influence. 42-year-old Scott Johnson responded to a fire call this weekend and was arrested for DUI after leaving the scene. It all started when the Madison VFD was alerted early Saturday to a local business for a fire alarm going off, and a police officer was also dispatched. When that officer got to the scene, he noticed Johnson was there as well. Reports are that the officer and Johnson had "crossed paths" earlier in the night and the officer thought there was a chance FF Johnson was under the influence. So when the fire call was over the officer followed Johnson back to the firehouse where the officer confronted Johnson, gave him a breathalyzer test and arrested him for DUI. Johnson was driving a city fire apparatus at the time of the arrest. He has been suspended by the Chief.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL,

BillyG

The Secret List 9-8-10 / 0929 Hours

AND:

WEST VIRGINIA EMT KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY - AMBULANCE CRASH

We regret to advise you that this morning, a McDowell County Emergency Ambulance Authority (W. VA) ambulance was involved in a single vehicle motor vehicle crash at approximately 0300 hours, (September 8, 2010) on Route 80 in Avondale, WV. The

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ambulance (designated as Unit 802) was transporting a patient from their residence in English, WV to Welch Community Hospital. The Emergency Vehicle Operator, James Bailey, who was driving the ambulance was killed in the Line of Duty. The EMS attendant, EMT Kevin Brooks, was also injured but his injuries do not appear life-threatening. The patient family member also sustained minor injuries in the accident. A family member accompanying the patient was also injured and was transported by AirEvac Lifeteam to a Charleston-area hospital. EMT Bailey, 36, of Bradshaw WV, had been with McDowell County EMS since November 2009 and he is survived by 2 children. As always, our most sincere condolences. Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 9-8-10 / 1242 Hours

AND:

Hey,

A Kentucky Wildland Firefighter has been seriously injured with burns and blunt force trauma yesterday morning while working a 12-acre wildfire in Livingston County. Don Lam, Forest Ranger Technician for the Kentucky Division of Forestry is currently in serious condition at Deaconess Hospital in Evansville after being airlifted following the accident. Initial investigations report that Ranger Lam was struck by a rolling log, a burning snag approximately 10 ft in length that broke loose and rolled off a bluff. The impact has left Ranger Lam unconscious and with serious injuries including second degree burns. We'll post updates as they become available on our home page.

FIREFIGHTERS CLOSE CALL: MASS. FF's STUNG WHILE RESCUING A CIVILIAN (SOP Below)

Attleboro Firefighters responded yesterday to a run reporting a woman stung. Turns out, she was stung more than 500 times after she reportedly stepped on a nest. FF David Capraro was one of the first to arrive to the report of a woman suffering from bee stings Monday night. The dispatchers updated responding FF's that the victim was still out and the bees were still all over her. The 53-year-old woman had been stung about 500 times. The yellow jackets were so relentless that they followed her in the ambulance and even into the emergency room at nearby Sturdy Memorial Hospital. 3 Firefighters also treated and released after enduring about a half dozen bites themselves.

HERE are SAMPLE FIRE DEPARTMENT PROCEDURES FOR DEALING WITH BEES/SWARMS:

<http://phoenix.gov/FIRE/20614.pdf>

<http://www.matthewpalmer.org/wfd/Bee-Swarm.pdf>

One noted expert said nests grow from the size of a thumbnail in April to the size of a baseball in July to the size of a basketball this time of year, often with as many 10,000 inside. The nests grow until frost kills most of them. And yellow jackets don't need to be provoked to sting. They can be attracted to someone just by their smell, or if the person happens to enter their flight path. Wasps are attracted by food, trash, lights, pet excrement, dried leaves, overgrown shrubbery, or grease built up on a grill.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 9-8-10 / 2144 Hours

AND:

Hey,

We have had some requests asking for materials that teachers can use in the classroom to educate children on the attack of the USA on 9/11/01, and we have provided that to those requesting. However, I wanted to share this excellent FREE resource with any of you who may have a need as well. Or, for you to share with your locals schools and teachers for use next week. This year the Tribute WTC Visitor Center staff www.tributewtc.org has created a FREE educational toolkit expressly for the purpose of providing middle school and high school teachers with materials for teaching September 11th. The toolkit, September 11th Personal Stories of Transformation, is available online for FREE at <http://www.tributewtc.org/programs/toolkit.html>

The program is also excellent viewing for Firefighters and other First Responders. NOTE: Teachers who don't have hi-speed or easy internet access in the classroom may also request a FREE DVD-Rom of the toolkit by sending an email to education@tributewtc.org The outstanding toolkit contains 8 units with 16 videos about people's personal experiences of the events of September 11th and their responses to those events. These videos show a wide range of experiences people had from New York to Boston to Shanksville to the Pentagon. It is excellent and well worth sharing with your local private and public school educators.

*****FINAL REMINDER*****

Saturday is 9/11-here is a link for your FD or community to conduct as simple or elaborate 9/11 Remembrance ceremony as you wish: [http://www.fire-police-ems.com/misc/\\$9-11.shtml](http://www.fire-police-ems.com/misc/$9-11.shtml)

FIREFIGHTER CLOSE CALL FOLLOWUP: INDIANA FIREFIGHTERS VIOLATED LABOR LAWS IN ATTEMPTED CONFINED SPACE RESCUE

State officials say Liberty Township Firefighters violated occupational safety and health regulations and as a result, the LTFD is taking corrective action to avoid having to pay a \$1,500 fine imposed by the Indiana Department of Labor. An investigation by DOL found that a team of firefighters who were not trained in confined-space rescue entered a 5-foot-diameter by 12-foot-deep well pit to rescue four people, including two firefighters, who had been overcome by muriatic acid vapor and/or hydrogen sulfide. 2 civilians died that day. 2 Firefighters were overcome by fumes as they tried to rescue the two men, who had entered the pit to make repairs. It is not out of the ordinary to use muriatic acid to clean well pumps, pipes and other components with sulfur buildup and corrosion. Both Firefighters survived. The Liberty Firefighters are taking a proactive and cooperative approach to insure this doesn't occur again. MORE details here: <http://tinyurl.com/33duh75>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL,

BillyG

The Secret List 9-9-10 / 1040 Hours

AND:

Hey,

Several Firefighters were hurt this morning, some seriously, at a 3 story apartment building fire in Coatesville, Pa. The fire came in after midnight and Firefighters had fire

showing on the 2nd, extending to the 3rd floor in the 28-unit apartment building. Additional alarms were struck bringing 100+ Firefighters to the scene from surrounding communities. The injured Firefighters were transported to local hospitals with injuries ranging from smoke inhalation and serious localized burns, to eye injuries and fractured legs. Initial reports are that there was a collapse as members were stretching lines and conducting searches, resulting in the injured members. All residents were safely removed.

PHOTOS & VIDEO HERE: <http://tinyurl.com/2uw2rsi>

CLOSE CALL FOR FIREFIGHTERS LAST NIGHT IN CALIFORNIA-6 RESIDENTS DEAD SO FAR.

By now you have heard and read about the gas explosion in San Bruno last evening. Initial reports were that the massive fire was due to a plane crash, but that was not correct. HERE are some video links to the fire which definitely challenged the Firefighters, as it would have any of us:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P--2xdwSm44> (Video)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I97NdmxYPfU&feature=related> (Video)

<http://tinyurl.com/33vptor> (Article and Photos)

San Bruno Fire Captain Charlie Barringer was one of 3 Firefighters on first due Engine 52. "I thought a 747 had landed on us," he said. "It shook our station right to its foundation." Within a minute, he had sounded 4 alarms. Soon after, he said firefighters discovered a gas line had exploded, destroying not only homes but the grid of water mains that supplied the local fire hydrants. His crew had no water to operate at the fires. "We were overwhelmed. We had multiple neighborhoods on fire," he said.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 9-10/10 / 0849 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.

Two rival candidates for the Clark County (NV) Commission diverged sharply on Wednesday when describing how they would cut labor costs to allay a budget crunch that could deepen by the time the winner takes office next year. Mary Beth Scow, a Democrat, and Douglas Bell, a Republican, agreed that labor costs, which make up the lion's share of the county budget, must be trimmed, especially if tax revenue keeps sagging. However, as Scow talked of revising union contracts to make the costs more sustainable, she avoided criticizing the unions. "Negotiators must be watchful of what they're negotiating, so in the future it's not something that will snowball," Scow said. Bell bashed the unions -- especially the firefighters -- and said they exerted too much influence on the all-Democratic commission. "The firefighters have acted like an elite group," Bell said. "It's time to see a shared sacrifice." <http://www.lvri.com/news/clark-county-commission-candidates-tackle-economy-101057979.html>

Proposition 1, also known as South King (WA) Fire and Rescue's proposed service benefit charge, failed at the Aug. 17 primary election. Results as of Tuesday night show Prop. 1 receiving 7,718 no votes (50.54 percent) and 7,554 yes votes (49.46 percent). To pass, the measure needed 60 percent approval, also known as a supermajority. The service benefit charge was proposed in an effort to stabilize the fire department's revenue and maintain the current level of service. The fire department receives most of its funding through property taxes, which have fallen by double digits during the lagging economy. The proposal included a funding formula that established the fire department's collection of a maximum of \$1 per \$1,000 of assessed property value. Then, residential and commercial buildings in the fire department's service area would be charged a fee based on square footage and safety features of the building. As a result of Prop. 1's failure, the fire department will be forced to cut staff, reduce programs and take vehicles out of service. "The public has basically told us they want us to cut back," said fire commissioner Bill Gates:

http://www.pnwlocalnews.com/south_king/fwm/news/election/101016394.html

The North Ada (ID) County Fire District does not have enough money to keep fire stations on both Glenwood Street and Chinden Boulevard open, said Mike Irvan, chairman of the district's board, Wednesday:

<http://www.idahostatesman.com/2010/08/19/1307685/ada-fire-district-could-close.html>

About half the firefighters who serve at Cottonwood (AZ) Fire Department could qualify for advanced life support training, but the \$4,000 cost of tuition imposes an obstacle for most, according to Patrick McIniss, an emergency medical technician and firefighter who is collecting money for scholarships. McIniss said Cottonwood Firefighters Association, a nonprofit charity, is seeking donations to pay these training costs for worthy firefighters:

<http://www.journalaz.com/News/charity-pays-paramedics-training-costs.html>

For the second year in a row, major budget cuts are putting police and firefighter jobs on the line as the City of Spokane (WA) works to balance a budget with a \$12 Million shortfall. Layoffs are dependent on concessions with the unions. If the unions agree on things like eliminating cost of living increases there will be fewer layoffs. Last year the city was able to save \$3.5 Million in labor concessions alone:

<http://www.kxly.com/spokanenews/24764064/detail.html>

Rejecting pleas that the loss of a hazmat squad imperils the San Fernando Valley, the Los Angeles (CA) City Council on Friday refused to provide the estimated \$50,000 needed to keep full staffing of the unit. But fire officials insisted the public will not be in danger when the hazardous materials unit at Fire Station 87 in Granada Hills - the only one in the Valley - is taken out of service at the end of the month. "If I thought there would be any danger to the public, I would have raised an alarm," Fire Chief Millage Peaks said. "Would I like to keep these at full strength? Of course. But we have a budget we have to deal with." The unit is being taken out of service Aug. 30 because of budget cuts that have resulted in reduced staffing levels throughout the city. Fire officials say there will still be personnel available in the Valley to respond to hazardous material spills, but they will be normally assigned to other firefighting duties and will have to be dispatched from farther distances. The hazmat unit was called to respond to possible incidents 101 times in the last quarter, according to LAFD Battalion Chief Ron Villanueva:

http://www.contracostatimes.com/california/ci_15842813?nclick_check=1

A Los Angeles County (CA) Fire Station in the City of El Monte that was closed a year ago as the city teetered on the edge of bankruptcy will reopen Oct. 1 with the help of a federal economic stimulus grant. The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors voted this week to accept the \$3.6 million grant, clearing the path for the reopening of Station 167, at Bryant and Peck roads: http://www.sgvtribune.com/ci_15861661

Uniontown (PA) informed its firefighter's union the day before negotiations began for a new contract that all career firemen will be laid off and replaced with a volunteer fire department. The city presented the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) - Local 955 with a letter about the layoffs on Wednesday and the city's labor relations attorney met with the union's attorney and an arbitrator to negotiate a new contract in Pittsburgh on Thursday:

http://www.heraldstandard.com/news_detail/article/2809/2010/august/27/bpaid-firefighters-face-furloughs-b.html

The San Bernardino (CA) City Council voted by a one-vote margin late Monday to approve more than \$11 million in budget cuts that may lead to police and firefighter layoffs before July 2011. "We're at the point where we don't have any choice but to make these difficult decisions," 4th Ward Councilman Fred Shorett said. "Blow it up and start over." "We'd all rather be giving people raises, building parks and putting four people on fire engines," he went on to say. "What idiot would be making these cuts if we had all these beautiful revenue streams?"

http://www.sbsun.com/ci_15873483?source=most_viewed

Budget cuts at the Chico (CA) Fire Department are making it harder for firefighters to do their jobs. In order to reduce operational costs, the department had to let go of three people and lost one fire engine at Fire Station 1 in July:

<http://www.theorion.com/news/fire-department-budget-cuts-may-cause-higher-response-times-1.1539544>

San Jose (CA) firefighters who argued recent layoffs have left them so short-handed they arrived late to a burning home this week had a chance to bring those 49 jobs back. But city officials said it would cost them 8.91 percent of their pay and benefits. And the response from firefighters Friday was loud and clear - No thanks:

http://www.mercurynews.com/ci_15917951?IADID=Search-www.mercurynews.com-www.mercurynews.com&nclick_check=1

In an effort to close a projected \$3.5 million operating budget deficit, West Covina (CA) city officials voted to replace one of three Fire Department- staffed units with contracted, non-Fire Department emergency medical technicians. The change could happen in January, said Assistant City Manager Tom Bachman:

http://www.sgvtribune.com/news/ci_15936150

El Mirage (AZ) weighs a 25% cut to the fire department to help balance its budget:

http://www.abc15.com/dpp/news/region_west_valley/el_mirage/el-mirage-weighs-25%25-cut-to-fire-department

A dozen firefighters will be laid off after the state denied a request for another emergency loan by a Morgan County township under fire for excessive spending. The Department of Local Government Finance issued a final determination this week, denying Madison Township's request for a \$500,000 emergency loan for its fire department. The agency cited spending at almost double that of a comparable township with a career fire department and the granting of several emergency loans in the past: <http://www.theindychannel.com/news/24788873/detail.html>

A one-engine firehouse in the Marin (CA) Headlands might be shuttered later this year in an effort by the Golden Gate National Recreation Area to save money. The GGNRA is looking to eliminate the Presidio Fire Department, which would include the closure of Station 52 at Fort Cronkhite. The station and its 11 personnel serve Rodeo Beach, the Marine Mammal Center and Headlands Institute, which host thousands of visitors each year: http://www.pasadenastarnews.com/california/ci_15947742

South King (WA) fire chief announces cuts after levy fails - Immediate cuts include maintaining a freeze on all internal positions; reducing staff through attrition, or direct cuts as necessary in 2011 or 2012; freezing salaries; and working to reduce the budget for the balance of 2010 and heading into 2011 by a minimum of \$1 million or more. In January we will take an Aid Car out of service. Aid cars are staffed with two Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs). This will save the taxpayers approximately \$600,000 or more. If revenues haven't picked up by the first quarter of 2011, they must look at additional reductions across the board:

<http://www.highlinetimes.com/2010/08/30/letters-editor/south-king-fire-chief-announces-cuts-af>

Editorial - Clark County (NV) is paying millions of dollars in extra wages -- known as premium pay -- to firefighters certified as medical technicians and paramedics, including to those who don't perform medical work. County officials say there's a surplus of firefighters receiving an additional 5 percent to 12 percent in premium pay for medical certificates, and that they tack on an unnecessary \$2.4 million to labor costs: <http://www.lvrj.com/news/clark-county-pays-millions-for-unused-firefighter-skills-102136169.html>

South San Francisco (CA) is exploring contracting with a state agency to maintain its level of fire service at a reduced cost, the mayor said. The city is expected by July to complete a study for contracting with Cal Fire, Mayor Mark Addiego said in a letter that served as a response to a San Mateo County civil grand jury report recommending that several communities look into mergers. The city since 2005 has also been studying the possibility of consolidating fire services with its neighbors, Addiego said. South San Francisco fire officials have met on multiple occasions with representatives from Brisbane, Colma and Daly City, he said. But labor, operational and other issues: http://www.mercurynews.com/ci_16006154?nclink_check=1

Two months before a vote to raise the city sales tax, the Tucson (AZ) City Council agreed unanimously Wednesday to immediately authorize \$2.9 million in additional cuts and steps to collect more in existing taxes. The council took no action on a proposal to preauthorize drastic cuts in police officers and firefighters if voters reject the half-cent tax hike. That doesn't mean the threat to public safety services has been eliminated. Instead, the council, following the lead of City Manager Mike Letcher, is opting not to talk about it for now. Letcher said in an interview during a break in the meeting that a council vote to accept a committee report recommending the public safety cuts if the tax fails amounts to de facto approval of the recommendations, so no further council action is necessary: http://azstarnet.com/news/local/govt-and-politics/article_945f05f6-71cf-56c6-8a0e-f84b2af9e672.html

Not-So-Positive Public Relations Items:

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

A teenage Stafford Township (NJ) volunteer firefighter was charged with setting a forest fire last week, according to The Star-Ledger. Firefighter Ryan Dellane was charged on Aug. 17 with one count of aggravated arson and was released after posting a \$50,000 bail: <http://www.firehouse.com/news/top-headlines/nj-firefighter-charged-arson>

Lodi (CA) City Council members are appalled by the state of one of their fire stations - Black mold in the corners of rooms. An air-conditioning system that overheats when outside temperatures reach 95 degrees. Leaks that cause water to pool on the dormitory floor between beds. "They can't live in here one day longer. This is disgusting," Lodi City Councilwoman JoAnne Mounce said Tuesday. She was standing inside Fire Station 2, surveying the area where city firefighters work 24-hour shifts. Built in 1981, the 705 E. Lodi Ave. station is undoubtedly the most run-down of the city's four fire stations:

<http://www.firehouse.com/news/top-headlines/calif-council-appalled-station-condition>

A judge has halted the lawsuit that was filed against Hermosa Beach (CA) by its own police and fire unions. Judge Michael Vicencia ruled there was no legal basis for the unions to try and stop the city from altering a retirement benefits package for new hires. Vicencia said because the City Council hadn't made any contract changes official, he could not approve a temporary restraining order on any action regarding the matter, according to the attorneys. The City Council had recently agreed to begin the process of changing its contract with the California Public Employees Retirement System (CalPERS) benefits that would eventually save the city money. But the Hermosa Beach Police Officers Association and Hermosa Beach Firefighters Association said the city violated their rights by not properly negotiating changes to the benefits package and filed a lawsuit. The changes that Hermosa Beach is trying to make would save the city money by providing a different level of benefits for those hired in the future:

http://www.tbrnews.com/articles/2010/08/19/hermosa_beach_news/news02.txt

Cities across metro Phoenix (AZ) have laws or policies prohibiting employee unions from getting involved in local elections for city council or mayor. The intent is to prevent employees from being pressured to support a candidate or unions from gaining too much power. But many candidates are receiving mass donations from the political-action committees of police-officer and firefighter unions - just not the ones in their cities. Some say it's a coordinated effort to get around the law: Unions are asking their counterparts in other cities to donate on their behalf, helping to put thousands of dollars in the campaign pockets of their potential bosses, according to one union boss in Peoria:

<http://tucsoncitizen.com/arizona-news/2010/08/21/valley-officer-unions-election-gifts-raise-concerns/>

Haverhill (MA) Police Department officials determine a Haverhill Firefighter had an altered driver's license. How was former firefighter Kevin Thompson able to keep the fact that he did not have a driver's license secret from his bosses for almost two decades? The city's answer to that question is contained in a police investigative report released late last week: <http://www.eagletribune.com/haverhill/x1772337609/Police-Firefighter-had-altered-drivers-license>

Washington state investigators allege that a former employee defrauded Gig Harbor Fire and Medic One of more than \$51,000, mostly in ill-gotten sprinkler equipment. Their investigation, released in a state audit last week, follows last year's firing of Michael E. Cameron, a longtime maintenance worker for Fire District No. 5. Fire commissioners terminated Cameron after determining there was sufficient evidence that he charged the district for equipment he then put to personal use for more than seven years:

<http://www.thenewstribune.com/2010/08/23/1310852/investigation-cites-fraud.html>

Former Spokane (WA) firefighter Todd Chism pleaded not guilty today to driving while intoxicated just four months after he was charged with assaulting two Washington State Patrol troopers who were investigating another possible drunken driving offense. Chism was a lieutenant with the Spokane Fire Department before he was arrested in April following a confrontation with troopers near Chism's Stevens County home. After that arrest, city officials placed him on "unpaid layoff" status, which means he's essentially severed from the city unless he is exonerated, city spokeswoman Marlene Feist said:

<http://www.spokesman.com/stories/2010/aug/23/suspended-firefighter-pleads-innocent-second-dui-a/>

For years, West Palm Beach (FL) firefighter Rick Curtis has accused the city of race discrimination. Despite a master's in business administration, completion of top fire and emergency medical courses and 15 years of service, he has been repeatedly overlooked for promotions. Last week, the Palm Beach County Office of Equal Opportunity confirmed Curtis' long-held beliefs. The city, its Equal Employment Board ruled, discriminated against the 44-year-old captain because he is African-American. Further, it ruled, while the target may have been Curtis, the city's actions keep other black firefighters from top posts. The city changed the rules so it "was free to pick and choose white firefighters for promotions. . . and effectively exclude black firefighters including Curtis because of their race," the board ruled. To redress the wrong, it ordered the city to pay Curtis \$56,506 in lost wages and \$24,000 in attorney fees. The board also ordered the city to give him the next open battalion chief or assistant chief position. He would become the department's highest-ranking African-American. Curtis said he doesn't expect the city to honor the order. He believes he will be forced to file suit, in which case costs to the city could skyrocket:

<http://www.firehouse.com/news/top-headlines/fla-ff-says-he-was-target-discrimination>

Tracy's (CA) DUI blood mistake could put cases in jeopardy - Firefighters took samples for months, apparently violating state law:

http://www.recordnet.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20100819/A_NEWS/8190331

Philadelphia (PA) Fire Commissioner: It's not about fire safety; union fears losing the overtime (an editorial relating to the brownouts occurring in many cities, including Philadelphia:

http://www.philly.com/inquirer/opinion/20100822_Letters_It_s_not_about_fire_safety_union_fears_losing_the_OT.html

The Odenville (AL) City Council has voted to fire its fire chief over an incident involving two stillborn babies being flushed down the toilet. Davis earlier this month defended his actions, saying he and emergency workers on the scene "followed protocol" during the incident: <http://www.myfoxal.com/global/story.asp?s=13039426>

Three Brockton (MA) firefighters "were perfect gentlemen" at a downtown tavern just before an alleged fight near the bar that left two of the men bleeding on the ground and the other facing accusations he carried a gun while intoxicated, according to one of the bar owners. Joe Angelo, co-owner of Joe Angelo's Cafe and Deli on Main Street, said the men "didn't cause a problem" just before they left the bar about 2 a.m. on Aug. 15. "What happened when they stepped out that door, I don't know." According to Brockton police report, a state trooper had ordered firefighter Jaime Barbosa, 32, to drop a pistol that he told police he brandished to "keep the peace" after one of his co-workers got into a fight:

http://www.enterpriseneews.com/news/cops_and_courts/x640787804/Downtown-Brockton-bar-owner-says-firefighters-were-gentlemen-prior-to-alleged-fight-gun-incident

Clark County (NV) officials and the firefighters' union have begun vetting seven prospective arbitrators, aiming to pick one to resolve deadlocked labor talks:

<http://www.lvrj.com/news/county--union-vet-arbitrators-101861973.html>

A former volunteer firefighter is arrested...accused of burglarizing his own fire station. The Lincoln County Sheriff's Department says they arrested 28-year-old Michael Baumann last Wednesday for burglarizing the Pine River Volunteer Fire Department in Merrill (WI): <http://www.wjfw.com/stories.html?sku=20100830152816>

The Loudoun (VA) Department of Fire, Rescue and Emergency Management was greeted this week with an upheaval in Middleburg that has left the government scrambling to cover volunteer positions. Five volunteer firefighters in the Middleburg Volunteer Fire Department, including its fire chief, have resigned within the past week. While there has been no official confirmation, the resignations may be connected to an investigation being conducted by the Loudoun County Sheriff's Office:

<http://www.leesburg2day.com/articles/2010/08/30/news/9572middleburg083010.txt>

A 17-year-old junior firefighter allegedly has set at least two arson fires in the Stillwell (IN) area, according to LaPorte County police. County police on Monday disclosed the arrest Friday of the boy on two counts of Class B felony arson:

<http://www.firehouse.com/news/top-headlines/indiana-junior-ff-charged-arson>

In what might be a first in Pennsylvania, a Lower Burrell paramedic will stand trial on charges alleging she interfered with police who were trying to get a suicidal woman to go to the hospital by stalling the use of their stun gun. Paramedic Jodi L. Kerr-Rummel, 31, of Derry is charged with obstructing police and disorderly conduct. She pleaded not guilty. Her attorney argues that she was trying to do what was best for the patient: http://www.pittsburghlive.com/x/pittsburghtrib/news/westmoreland/s_697047.html

Former Joseph (OR) Fire Department treasurer charged with stealing from department. Mike Moore of Joseph was arrested Aug. 16 and charged with first-degree theft and

theft by deception while serving as the secretary/treasurer of the Joseph Fire Department. Moore had served on the department as a firefighter for four years and as secretary/treasurer for two, Fire Chief Tom Clevenger said:

<http://www.lagrandeobserver.com/News/Local-News/Former-Joseph-Fire-Department-treasurer-charged-with-stealing-from-department>

Friday Harbor (WA) Fire Chief Vern Long was suspended for two days by Town Administrator King Fitch, after photos posted on SanJuanJournal.com showed a firefighter battling a car fire without proper apparatus:

<http://www.pnwlocalnews.com/sanjuans/jsj/news/101996073.html>

Alameda (CA) Fire Chief Dave Kapler is placed on Administrative Leave pending an investigation into using city gasoline to fill his personal / work vehicle:

<http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2010/09/02/BAAO1F7NEE.DTL&type=newsbayarea>

The city of Deltona (FL) won't let firefighters go pink. They want to wear pink t-shirts to support breast cancer survivors, but city officials say it violates their contracts. However, it may be more politics at play than just pink shirts:

<http://www.wftv.com/news/24860470/detail.html>

More raw feelings are surfacing between the Buffalo firefighters union and the administration of Mayor Byron W. Brown as a large contingent of city firefighters prepares to head to Colorado Springs, Colo., to pay tribute to two firefighters who died last year. Four escorts will accompany relatives of the two Buffalo firefighters to the ceremony. In addition, a four-member city honor guard will be present. But the city is refusing to grant paid time off for three of the four firefighter escorts, who will look after the needs of the deceased firefighters' family members during what is expected to be an emotional journey. The city will provide paid leave for three of the city honor guard members the union requested: <http://www.buffalonews.com/city/article178037.ece>

Regardless of the Board of Public Safety's decision, a South Bend (IN) firefighter facing termination won't be on the department by the end of next month. At a three-hour trial-like hearing Thursday that pitted fire chiefs against the firefighter's union leadership, firefighter Jordan Jostes defended his decision to keep a "Bowie knife" under his pillow at a fire station last April, saying it was a habit he had since he was a child. But Fire Chief Howard Buchanon, who asked the board to terminate Jostes, painted a picture of a problem employee, one who violated the department's rules three times in the past year:

<http://www.southbendtribune.com/article/20100902/News01/100909879/1011/XML>

Inside the arson ring: A must read. Police report indicates young Massachusetts firefighters were bored & greedy. There is now a lot more detail about the five on-call firefighters accused of starting fires in three vacant homes in the Massachusetts towns of Brimfield and Holland. It probably won't surprise anyone familiar with the issue of firefighter arson that these were young men who said they set the fires because they were bored. They weren't seeing enough action, except the EMS calls

that really didn't interest them. In this case there is also the issue of greed. They were on-call firefighters who needed the money from the fire responses:

<http://statter911.com/2010/09/04/inside-the-arson-ring-a-must-read-police-report-indicates-young-massachusetts-firefighters-were-bored-greedy/>

Houston's (TX) acting fire chief has fired three firefighters, saying they were each culpable in an incident where a racial epithet was entered on an EMS report using an ambulance computer terminal. The head of the firefighters union called the firings a "travesty" and said the department failed to determine who actually was responsible. A spokesman for Acting Fire Chief Rick Flanagan confirmed on Wednesday the disciplinary actions were ordered, after union officials protested the fairness of the dismissals. HFD identified the three involved in a March 7 incident as firefighter Spencer Allred, 33, firefighter Randal Ricks, 33, and engineer/operator Ryan J. Smith, 27, all from Station 55 in south Houston at Cullen and Selinsky:

<http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/metropolitan/7192381.html>

A portion of a Smithfield (UT) police report released Wednesday sheds a bit more light on the circumstances surrounding the burglary and prescription drug charges filed last month against former Logan Fire Chief Kyle B. Lindsay. Smithfield police provided an incident report about a prowler complaint after a records request for reports involving Lindsay:

<http://www.sltrib.com/sltrib/home/50246239-76/fire-lindsay-chief-homeowner.html.csp>

He responded to a weekend fire call, and then he was booked for DUI. Madison (SD) volunteer firefighter Scott Johnson faces his first DUI after responding to a call of a fire alarm going off at a local business. The police officer who made the Saturday morning arrest had crossed paths with Johnson earlier in the evening before they both responded to that fire call. So, the officer had a suspicion that Johnson could be under the influence. When he saw Johnson jump in the fire truck around 3:00 a.m. Saturday morning and drive back to the station, he followed, gave Johnson a breath test, and arrested him. Like almost every fire department in South Dakota, Madison's fire department is made up of volunteers:

<http://www.keloland.com/News/NewsDetail6371.cfm?Id=104660>

There were 36 photographs showing heavy drinking, provocative poses and sexual innuendo at two private parties. Spring Hill (FL) Fire Chief Mike Rampino said he only cares about two of the photographs — one including a Spring Hill firefighter and a backup ambulance parked in front of the house where at least one of the parties took place. None of the photos was taken inside a fire station, he said. "We're taking it as seriously as any investigation," said Rampino. Rob Rogoski, a Ridge Manor resident, brought the photos to the attention of both the chief and the board of fire commissioners during a public meeting Wednesday. Rogoski said his motivation was to shed light on an agency that he thinks doesn't deserve more tax money. Later during the same meeting, fire commissioners approved the tentative budget along with a tax increase. "I cannot stand it when county government asks for more money when it can't manage what it already has," said Rogoski:

<http://www2.hernandotoday.com/content/2010/sep/09/091732/fire-chief-investigating-racy-photos/news/>

Positive Public Relations Items:

Helping children be children is what Westminster (CO) Firefighters from station 2 took the time to do recently, by hosting Camp Le'ale'a, a day camp for autistic youth. Almost 50 children and adolescents ranging in age from 6 to 22 years old, enjoyed climbing on a fire truck, trying on the firefighter gear, completing an obstacle course, and wrapping up the day with a cool spray of water from the fire truck:

http://www.great8newspapers.com/Articles-c-2010-08-19-216519.114125-sub17480.114125_Helping_kids_be_kids.html

Glendale (AZ) Firefighters kicked off its newest program called "Living Healthier Safer Lives" Aug. 19 at Glencroft Retirement Community. Firefighters were on hand to perform free blood pressure and glucose checks on residents in hopes of recognizing any key risk factors that individuals may have prior to an emergency. Firefighters also encouraged individuals to do their diligence in monitoring their health throughout the year. Glendale firefighters will put on at least six events each year at various locations in Glendale. The programs will not only target senior living facilities but also facilities where children are involved. The programs will include topics such as health and exercise. "When 911 is called, the emergency has already happened. Our goal is to prevent emergencies from happening in the first place. We can do that by encouraging folks to live healthier safer lives," Glendale Fire Chief Mark Burdick said:

http://www.glendalestar.com/features/article_59772ff0-b05f-11df-bc9f-001cc4c03286.html

Ask any firefighter to describe what the brotherhood is like between firefighters and chances are they'll take a few seconds before responding. That's what it was like for Doug Robison, a firefighter with the Unified Fire Authority. "I could go any place in the country and I honestly feel like if I needed help I could go to a fire station and ask for help," Robison said. So when the call came that one of their own needed help here in Utah, more than enough volunteers signed up. "For Dee, I'd jump through hoops to do it. I'd do anything I could," Robison said. "Dee" is Dee Putnam, a captain with Salt Lake's Unified Fire Authority. Six weeks ago, he had a simple hernia operation but ended up with difficult complications: <http://www.ksl.com/?nid=148&sid=12251521>

When the tango began to play, Jeff Nevin and Tanya Payne started moving toward each other gracefully, one arm behind their backs, the other held close to the stomach. Seconds later, they were sliding across the floor at the Arthur Murray dance studio in Everett (WA). The two are an unusual match. Payne teaches at the studio. Nevin is an officer with the Everett Police Department. He is one of six police officers and firefighters preparing to dance for a cause. The event Sept. 18 will benefit Big Brothers Big Sisters of Snohomish County:

<http://www.heraldnet.com/article/20100909/NEWS01/709099884>

Local firefighters will be remembering the 343 firefighters lost on 9/11 with a commemorative stair climb in Seattle (WA) on Saturday. "We go to Two Union Square. We climb once, or we climb twice. If you climb one time its 55 floors, if you climb twice its 110, to simulate the twin towers, and each firefighter that goes up carries a picture

of one of the 343 that died," says organizer Melissa Woolsey. This will be the second year for the 343 Stairclimb in Seattle. Woolsey says this year they've asked local police officers to join them:

http://mynorthwest.com/category/local_news_articles/20100910/Seattle-firefighters-climb-for-343-firefighters-killed-on-9%5E11/

Training & Safety Related Items:

Results from an investigation into fireground actions during a January structure fire that left two Modesto (CA) firefighters critically burned are out. The Modesto Fire Department has released a very comprehensive and thorough accident investigation report that should be a must read for all current and future firefighters, so we can all learn or reinforce the various lessons learned to help reduce the chances of history repeating itself:

<http://www.firefighternation.com/forum/topics/california-department-releases>

- Here is the actual report:

http://www.modestogov.com/mfd/downloads/docs/Coston_Fire_Final_Report.pdf

Maine firefighters laud federal 'two-in two-out' rule as a lifesaver (something that is in place in California) - Federal rules that require firefighters who enter burning buildings to do so with a partner while two other firefighters are outside to rescue them if anything goes wrong are nearly a decade old now, and area fire chiefs say the requirement has saved lives. "People had to die for the rules to change," Etna Fire Chief Walter Gibbons, a 20-year veteran firefighter, said recently. "There was a lot of loss of life because of lack of crews. It provides some protections for [firefighters] who risk their lives." The federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration mandate, dubbed the "two-in two-out law," requires firefighters who enter a burning building to do so in pairs wearing self-contained breathing apparatus, or SCBAs, and that another team of two firefighters track them to ensure they are safe. The rules can be disregarded if a resident is believed to be inside a burning house. "If there is somebody trapped or somebody inside [the burning building], you don't have to adhere to the two-in two-out," Brewer Fire Chief Gary Parent said: <http://www.bangordailynews.com/story/Statewide/Maine-firefighters-laud-federal-two-in-two-out-rule-as-a-lifesaver,152019>

Buffalo (NY) firefighters are better trained in how to issue a "mayday" call for help, now carry improved portable radios for operation in blinding smoke and practice more thorough tactics for fighting basement fires. A year ago today, when two firefighters perished in a Genesee Street fire, those enhancements were not in place. The deaths of Lt. Charles W. "Chip" McCarthy Jr. and Firefighter Jonathan S. Croom were a wake-up call for the city Fire Department: <http://www.buffalonews.com/city/article170486.ece>

Three things to do to so you will NOT die in the line-of-duty as a firefighter, by John "Skip" Coleman:

<http://www.fireengineering.com/index/articles/display/1187924800/articles/fire-engineering/survival-zone/2010/08/coleman-three-things.html>

Knowledge and adherence to protocols, thorough documentation and maintaining equipment are among things that may keep you out of court. During a session at the International Association of Women in Fire & Emergency Services Conference in Chicago, personnel were treated to a lively discussion about what can get them and their departments in hot water. To demonstrate how uncomfortable it is for someone to be grilled on the witness stand, Attorney Melissa Elwell had four students read transcripts from one of her trials. The case involved equipment malfunctions that occurred while a seriously injured crash victim was trapped. The man, a father, died of his injuries. Clearly, the witnesses were not comfortable as Elwell asked questions about the suction unit that didn't work and the extrication tool that failed. Another issue that may be tough is eliminating the good old boys or girls club. "If something is wrong, you have to speak up. You can't cover it up," she said, adding that improper care or failing to follow protocols should not be tolerated. Personnel also should be aware of what constitutes sexual harassment. It's essential that people address inappropriate behavior and not let it continue:

<http://www.firehouse.com/news/top-headlines/ways-stay-out-hot-water-discussed-i-women>

A great reminder for all of us in the fire service as sometimes we think we know what the public cares about or actually wants and many times we are incorrect - Community connections: Do you still care? The people care, but not about what you think they care about:

<http://www.firerescue1.com/columnists/Charles-Bailey/articles/878827-Community-connections-Do-you-still-care/>

General Fire Service Related Items:

The city of Port Angeles (WA) has taken the next step toward a merger of its fire department and Fire District Two. The city council this week approved moving ahead with a consolidation of the two departments to form a new regional fire authority:

<http://www.konp.com/local/6063>

From STATER911 - My local fire department has been taking a beating over the last month all across the country. Its crazed fire marshals are accused of tyranny, power-tripping, and being domestic terrorists. And those are some of the nice comments. So what awful thing did the Fire Marshal's from the Fairfax County (VA) Fire & Rescue Department do? They did their jobs. If you are not aware, on July 24th the fire marshals arrested two bartenders they caught in the act of lighting a bottle containing a flammable liquid and a wick. The bartenders are accused of then using what some might call a Molotov cocktail as a source of ignition for their fire breathing demonstration. It's a trick they've apparently done for years at Jimmy's in Herndon. I say good job by the fire marshals. A crowded bar is not the place for anyone to play with fire:

<http://statter911.com/2010/09/05/for-bob-barr-please-watch-the-station-night-club-video-until-you-understand-its-message/>

If you're still not convinced that it is ok to allow open flames inside a building – then take the time to watch this video from the 2003 Station Nightclub Tragedy in Rhode Island where over 100 people lost their lives at a Great White rock concert where open flames went astray extremely rapidly. Now watch how fast this fire progresses – even if there was a fire station across the street staffed with 50 people on duty, there would have still been large numbers of lives lost. If you're not a believer in fire sprinklers, then you should be after watching this video. Had this building been sprinklered, chances are there would have been very few (if realistically any) lives lost:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LZx4i1TwZME>

San Diego (CA) has a larger department budget per firefighter — \$210,600 — than any of the other top 15 cities in the country, according to a survey and analysis by The Watchdog. But that doesn't necessarily mean the city's 864 sworn firefighters are paid too much or that taxpayers are getting a raw deal. San Diego actually spends less on fire-rescue services per resident — \$140 — than all but two of the cities surveyed. San Diego has a population of 1.3 million, roughly the same as San Antonio, but has about half as many sworn firefighters. San Diego also spends about \$37 million less annually than San Antonio on fire services:

<http://www.signonsandiego.com/news/2010/aug/30/san-diego-no-1-in-spending-per-firefighter/>

The Aurora (CO) City Council has rejected an arbitrator's recommendation regarding a new contract for firefighters, meaning voters will probably decide the matter in November. The city and the fire department union were at odds over how pension benefits are paid: http://www.denverpost.com/ci_15834684

The Denver (CO) Fire Department will begin providing fire protection for Sheridan as of Sept. 14. Starting on that date, Denver firefighters will staff the station at Oxford and Federal and Denver fire trucks from that station will response to calls for service in Sheridan. Additional equipment can be called in from other nearby Denver fire stations if needed. "This is a good move for our residents because it provides them long-term quality fire protection at a level that Sheridan probably would never be able to provide," City Manager A.J. Kreiger said. As part of the agreement, Sheridan's 16 firefighters took and passed the civil service tests so, starting Sept. 15, they will attend the two-week Denver Fire Academy. When they graduate from the academy, they can be assigned to duties at any location where Denver provides fire protection. "I see this as a win-win situation for our people," Mayor Dallas Hall said. "The residents will have better fire protection than our city was able to provide. It also is a good situation for our firefighters because they will have the opportunity for promotion and for being assigned to different aspects of the fire service than they would every have in our small department."

http://coloradocommunitynewspapers.com/articles/2010/08/27/englewood_herald/news/03_tm_fire_dept_en.txt

Benicia (CA) could eventually absorb 12,000 fire calls a year from Vallejo, in a move officials say would free up Vallejo emergency dispatchers to answer more police calls. "We can't handle what we have now. We need more dispatchers now just to try to keep

up with our police calls," Vallejo Lt. Abel Tenorio said of the police department's dispatch center. The neighboring cities are considering consolidating fire dispatch service at Vallejo's request. The financially strapped larger city's dispatch staff has shrunk dramatically. Benicia has 10 dispatchers and Vallejo has 14, down from 23 just two years ago: http://www.insidebayarea.com/ci_15910781

As of September 10, 2010 – the San Joaquin County (CA) EMS Agency has advised the Stockton Fire Department that they must discontinue providing Advanced Life Support (ALS) services to its customers, something they have been doing since the early 1970's (Stockton was actually one of the very first fire departments in California to provide ALS / paramedic services):

<http://www.calchiefs.org/items/8-26-10%20SJCEMS%20Memo%20re%20SFD%20transition%20to%20BLS.PDF>

More from Stockton (CA): Due to a contract dispute, Stockton firefighters will not be able to perform advanced life-saving measures on patients when responding to an emergency call starting Wednesday morning:

<http://cbs13.com/local/stockton.firefighters.medical.2.1890114.html>

The fire service is still held in high esteem by the public but the trust and respect is "fragile," Fire-Rescue International was told Friday. During an address at the conference in Chicago, Acting U.S. Fire Administrator Glenn Gaines pointed to a survey that listed fire departments as the most trusted of all groups in the community. But he warned the fire service can not take this respect for granted, and outlined measures to combat erosion in trust and confidence. "I recognize that that trust is fragile and that many things threaten this trust and confidence," Chief Gaines said. Criminal activity both on- and off-duty, substance abuse, sexual harassment and discrimination are issues that can damage the perception of the fire service by the public, Chief Gaines said:

<http://www.firerescue1.com/fire-department-management/articles/871998-USFA-head-Public-trust-in-fire-service-fragile/>

Fire departments face extinction if they refuse to adapt and move with the times, a session at Fire-Rescue International in Chicago was told Friday. "If you're an industry that does not progress, does not evolve, it will become extinct," Chief David Daniels told the audience. Chief Daniels said in many respects, if the fire service were a business, some departments would be out of business by now. Chief Daniels, who is chief/CEO of the Woodinville, Wash., Fire and Life Safety District, said with the number of fires dropping every year, fire suppression is "not a growth industry." He said departments need to expand the services they offer and roles they fill to remain relevant:

<http://www.firerescue1.com/fire-department-management/articles/872008-Chief-Fire-departments-must-change-or-face-extinction/>

4 ways to reinforce public trust in firefighters - Acting U.S. Fire Administrator Chief Glenn Gaines' speech at FRI should serve as a reminder of the role we play in the community:

<http://www.firerescue1.com/fire-department-management/articles/873576-4-ways-to-reinforce-public-trust-in-firefighters/>

The Napa (CA) City Council will meet Sept. 7 to decide whether to share some fire duties with American Canyon. On Tuesday, the American Canyon City Council acting as the American Canyon Fire Protection District board of directors unanimously approved a resolution to have Napa Fire personnel offer support for a variety of duties, including those previously assumed by the district's assistant fire chief. The assistant fire chief position, budgeted at \$187,000 a year, has been vacant since last fall. "This agreement provides for a cooperative working arrangement in an effort to share response capabilities and administrative support services for the benefit of both agencies," American Canyon Fire Chief Glen Weeks wrote in his staff report. "In addition, it may minimize duplication in the areas of administration, training and fire prevention/public education services."

http://napavalleyregister.com/news/local/article_49c845d4-b65f-11df-ba87-001cc4c03286.html

A few dozen firefighters and others poured into a San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors meeting Tuesday to protest a week-old ban limiting Stockton (CA) Fire Department paramedics to performing only basic medical techniques during emergencies. Since last Wednesday, Stockton firefighters have ceased performing advanced life support procedures, which include providing medication and other actions performed by paramedics. The county said Stockton Fire Department paramedics lost that authorization, because the city needed a new agreement with the county first. The city complied with the ban. Necessity of the agreement has been one of the legal issues over emergency medical services between the city and the county. Last week's change did not remove all paramedics from service in Stockton. They still arrive with all ambulances:

http://www.recordnet.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20100908/A_NEWS/9080314/1/A_NEWS

Half the Orange County (CA) Fire Authority's volunteer firefighting crews may be scrapped by the end of the month as officials review a report that states many of the crews are unreliable and hold up financial resources in the cash-strapped agency. In a six-month report being reviewed by Orange County Fire Authority board members Thursday evening, reserve units in 11 fire stations across the county are under recommendation to be eliminated, representing about 245 volunteer positions in the county's largest fire department. For years, the reserve program has been plagued by a series of problems involving recruitment, retention, response times and training, Battalion Chief Kris Concepcion said. Though some crews have shown an exemplary record in responding to emergency calls, others have been hampered by long response times. In Villa Park, for example, the 14-member reserve team responded to one of 59 calls to the station:

<http://www.ocregister.com/news/volunteer-265646-reserve-fire.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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