



FIRE & EMS NEWS

January 5, 2010

Happy New Year and 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.

First of all, we want to take the time to wish you and your family Happy New Year! We hope that 2010 is a very prosperous year, both personally and professionally!

SPRING 2010 FIRE TECHNOLOGY SCHEDULE

Registration for the Spring 2010 semester has begun and classes are starting to fill up!!!

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

COURSE	DAY	TIMES
FT 50 (Fire Protection Organization)	Monday (am)	0800 – 1155 hours
FT 50 (Fire Protection Organization)	Monday (pm)	1800 – 2155 hours
FT 51 (Fire Operations)	Thursday (am)	0900 – 1150 hours
FT 52 (Firefighter Safety/Public Education 1)	Wednesday (am)	0900 – 1150 hours
FT 52 (Firefighter Safety/Public Education 1)	Wednesday (pm)	1800 – 2050 hours
FT 53 (Fire Behavior & Combustion)	Tuesday (pm)	1800 – 2150 hours
FT 55 (Fire Protection Equipment & Systems)	Thursday (pm)	1900 – 2150 hours
FT 89 (Firefighter 1 Academy evaluation) Note: Class only meets on the following dates: - March 10, 12 and 14 (Wed/Fri/Sun)	Mon & Wed (pm) Saturday (all day)	1700 – 2050 hours 0800 – 1650 hours
FT 89 (Firefighter 1 Academy evaluation) Note: Class only meets on the following dates: - April 13, 15 and 17 (Tue/Thu/Sat)	Tue & Thurs (pm) Saturday (all day)	1700 – 2050 hours 0800 – 1650 hours
FT 90A (Firefighter 1 Academy) **Must also be registered in FT 90B and 90C**	Tue & Thurs (pm) Saturday (all day)	1700 – 2050 hours 0830 – 1650 hours
FT 90B (Firefighter 1 Academy) **Must also be registered in FT 90A and 90C**	Tue & Thurs (pm) Saturday (all day)	1700 – 2050 hours 0830 – 1650 hours
FT 90C (Firefighter 1 Academy) **Must also be registered in FT 90A and 90B**	Tue & Thurs (pm) Saturday (all day)	1800 – 2150 hours 0830 – 1650 hours

COURSE	DAY	TIMES
FT 91A (Wildland Interface Firefighting) Note: Class only meets on the following dates: April 27, 29, May 1, 2, 4, 6, 8, 9, 11, 13, 15 and 16	Tue & Thurs (pm) Saturday (all day) Sunday (all day)	1700 – 2150 hours 0800 – 1650 hours
FT 91B (Haz Mat 1 st Responder-Operations) Note: Class only meets on the following dates: April 20, 22, 24 and 25	Tue & Thurs (pm) Saturday (all day) Sunday (all day)	1700 – 2150 hours 0800 – 1750 hours
FT 91C (I-200; Basic ICS) Note: Class only meets on the following dates: April 13, 15, 17 and 18	Tue & Thurs (pm) Saturday (all day) Sunday (all day)	1700 – 2150 hours 0800 – 1750 hours 0800 – 1750 hours
FT 95 (Work Experience) **Must also be registered in FT 96**	TBA	TBA
FT 96 (Work Experience Seminar) **Must also be registered in FT 95** Note: Class only meets on the following dates: January 20, February 3, March 3, April 14, May 5 and May 26	Wednesday (pm)	1800 – 2150 hours
Health 61 (First Responder)	Tuesday (mid)	1300 – 1650 hours
Health 61 (First Responder)	Tuesday (pm)	1800 – 2150 hours
Health 81 (EMT) **Must also be registered in Health 83**	Wednesday (all day)	0800 – 1720 hours
Health 83 (Extrication and Triage) **Must also be registered in Health 81**	Saturday (one day only – TBA)	0830 – 1620 hours
Health 85 (EMT Refresher) Note: Class only meets on the following dates: April 26 through May 8, 2010	Monday & Wednesday (pm) Saturday (all day)	1800 – 2150 hours 0800 – 1550 hours
PHED2FSC (Fire Science Conditioning)	Mon & Wed (mid)	1300 – 1415 hours
PHED2FSC (Fire Science Conditioning)	Wednesday (pm)	1800 – 2050 hours

NOTE: The above information is to the best of my knowledge as of the time this went to print. For the most up-to-date information (including room numbers & registration numbers) regarding Spring 2010 scheduling, check the Chabot College web site at www.chabotcollege.org

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

DECEMBER 2009 EVERYONE GOES HOME NEWSLETTER:



www.EveryoneGoesHome.com

EVERYONE GOES HOME®

FIREFIGHTER LIFE SAFETY INITIATIVES

December 2009
E-Newsletter

[Everyone Goes Home® Past Efforts Improve Future Results](#)

As 2009 winds down and we begin a new year, there is no better time to take a look back to evaluate the past year and look forward to where we can go. The preliminary data for line-of-duty deaths (LODDs) in 2009 shows a reduction in this area. This clearly indicates that all our efforts - associations and individuals - are having a positive impact on preventable LODDs. The magnitude of our challenge requires the involvement of everyone.

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

More December 2009 Articles:

- ["True Change" Occurs with Diligence and Time](#)
- [Checklists Provide Uniform Processes, Consistency and Positive Outcomes](#)
- [Advocates Wanted for Everyone Goes Home® Program](#)

» **More:** [View the Complete December 2009 Newsletter](#)

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



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

**Homeland Security**

**Fireman's Fund™**
Insurance Company

A company of **Allianz** 

» For More Information Visit: www.everyonegoeshome.com

FIRE SERVICE GRANT OPPORTUNITIES FOR INCREASING STAFFING:



December 17, 2009

During the present difficult economic circumstances being experienced by local jurisdictions, many potential Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grant applicants have expressed concern regarding the prohibition against using SAFER funds to supplant local budgets and the Secretary's ability to waive the prohibition. DHS has revisited the existing policy on supplanting for the 2009 SAFER funding cycle. The Secretary has decided that DHS will consider petitions for waivers on supplanting from 2009 grantees on a case-by-case basis and under certain conditions:

1. 2009 SAFER grantees that lose firefighters during the period of performance and find that they are unable to back-fill vacated firefighting positions due to documentable economic hardship may petition for a waiver. In order to qualify for this waiver, the economic hardship must affect the entire public safety sector in their jurisdiction, not merely the fire department.
2. The causes of the vacancies could include retirement, voluntary or involuntary separation, or calls to active duty in the reserves or National Guard.
3. In the absence of a granted waiver, the policies stated in the present guidance would still apply, i.e., vacancies caused by one of the circumstances cited in #2 above do not have to be replaced and will not cause a cancellation of the grant if not replaced. However, the amount of the allowable reimbursement of SAFER positions would be reduced by the number of vacated positions, not replaced. (Example – A grantee has 20 firefighters (FF's) and receives a SAFER grant for five more FF's. One of the 20 FF's retires and is not replaced. The grantee would then be eligible to receive reimbursement only for four FF's instead of the original five.)
4. The policy regarding the prohibition against layoffs has not changed. No waivers will be granted for layoffs and SAFER grantees are prohibited against laying-off any firefighters during the SAFER grant's period of performance.
5. We remind applicants that while the previous requirement that *newly created* positions be maintained for an additional one year past the period of performance, there is *no requirement to maintain* the positions past the period of performance for awards made to rehire vacated or laid off firefighters.

In order for all potential applicants to have sufficient time to consider this revised policy guidance, DHS will extend the 2009 SAFER application period. **The new application deadline will be 5:00 p.m., Eastern Time, Friday, January 15, 2010.** Applicants that have already submitted their application and wish to amend the application given this new policy guidance will be granted that opportunity. Applicants that wish to amend their submitted SAFER application should call the Help Desk at 1-866-274-0960.

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

Tech Talk: Disposal of Fire/Smoke Detectors

The latest edition of *Tech Talk* looks at the disposal of fire/smoke detectors. Depending on where you live and what type of fire or smoke detector you need to dispose of, there may be regulations that apply to the disposal of scrap detectors.

» [Download Disposal of Fire/Smoke Detectors](#) (PDF, 670 Kb)

FIREFIGHTER EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY – CAL FIRE:

CAL FIRE, (formerly known as **California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection or CDF**) is now accepting applications for **Firefighter I**. Applications will be accepted **until January 29, 2010** for the 2010 fire season, which generally starts in the end of May and generally goes through October. If you are interested in applying you must complete a Firefighter I application (CAL FIRE Form 215) and mail it or deliver it in person to the North Coast Region I and Cascade Region II units (see next page for locations). Applications will be accepted on a file in person basis only for the units in Southern California Region III and Central Sierra Region IV. Applications must be filed at each unit in which you wish to be considered for appointment.

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

There are 21 units through-out the state and they are divided between two regions, North Region, and South Region. In the Northern Region you can mail the completed application to each unit that you are interested in applying for. In the Southern Region they must be hand delivered. A list of the units can be found at the end of this announcement.

What you can expect working as a firefighter for CAL FIRE:

A firefighter 1 is a temporary position. You work a 72-hour workweek, four days on and three days off. You work the same four days in a week. Your responsibilities will include responding to vegetation fires, vehicle fires, structure fires, vehicle accidents, medical aides, public assist calls, or any other emergency. You are responsible for maintaining equipment and tools, following oral and written directions, cooking and cleaning around the station and other duties as assigned. At some stations you may get only one call per shift and others may get as many as four or five calls on a busy day.

Because CAL FIRE is a statewide fire department, you can get sent to any area within the state on a strike team assignment. You may only be gone one or two days or as many as fourteen days depending on the needs throughout the state. You may be assigned to an incident, usually a large fire, or may be assigned to cover behind other engines on an out-of-county assignment.

In addition to being assigned to working on an engine, a firefighter 1 may be assigned to work at an Air Attack Base refueling aircraft, and reloading tankers with retardant. Another opportunity that is available to firefighter I is to work as a helitack firefighter assigned to one of nine helicopters throughout the state.

There is the opportunity to work as a fire fighter assigned to a Schedule A Contract. This is where a city, county, or fire protection district makes a contract with CAL FIRE to provide fire protection for the community. For example in the Santa Clara Unit, the South County Fire Protection District has contracted with CAL FIRE to provide the personnel to operate their fire department. As a result CAL FIRE personnel operate very much like any other municipal department with firefighter, engineers, captains, and chiefs, operating type I engines, and providing advanced life support medical care.

The hiring process:

After submitting an application, it is reviewed and given a preliminary score based on your education, training and experience. The more boxes you can check the more points you can get. By mid March you should receive a letter indicating whether you passed the preliminary evaluation. If a passing score is given you may then be invited to an interview. The interview is 100 percent of your score. Because each unit must follow the same guidelines for hiring you can expect to hear the same, or close to the same questions at each interview. This can be a big help when trying to improve your interviewing skills. So the more units that you apply to the better chance you have to interview and improve.

Typically an interview panel is made up of an engineer and a captain. In some cases at the completion of your interview you are given your score, in other cases it is mailed to you. Your score is based from 0 to 100 points. Typically you need to get a score in the upper 90's to be considered for employment. By mid May you should have received a letter indicating whether or not you are being considered for employment. From here one of a number of

things can happen, you could get a letter stating that you will not be considered for future employment, or you can be contacted and offered a job, or you could be contacted and offered a slot in an academy but not a job.

The presumption is that a position may open up in the future and you would already be trained to take it. Typically a new hire academy is scheduled for the first or second week in June and consists of learning basic skills needed to work as a fire fighter. The end result is that by attending the class you can obtain the CAL FIRE 67 hour Certification.

What generally happens around August or September is some firefighters quit and go back to school opening up position to hire more firefighters. So this provides some people second chance to get hired. If you stay in contact with the hiring coordinator in each unit and are willing to start later in the season you might get picked up as a late hire. After you get hired with CAL FIRE and work three months you have automatic rehire rights. Meaning you don't have to go through the same process to get hired the next season.

What CAL FIRE can offer you?

CAL FIRE is an all risk fire department. They respond to an average of 6,400 wildland fires annually and more than 275,000 non-wildfire emergencies each year. As a firefighter I you will gain experience in working on an engine as part of an engine company. You will get experience working at emergencies under stressful situation. You will learn what station life is like and how to work with people of different backgrounds in that environment.

You will have the opportunity to earn additional certifications including Incident Command Systems, Confined Space Rescue Awareness, Haz Mat Operations, Swift Water Rescue, Auto Extrication, and many other classes. You will gain experience working with the ICS system as part of an engine company at small and large incidents.

Just like anything else you can get out of CAL FIRE what you put in. Because of the number of people retiring you have a very good opportunity to gain a permanent position if you put the effort into it. It is now up to you to make the first step.

NORTHERN REGION

File-in-person OR mail-in applications accepted at the units listed below:

- **Amador-El Dorado Unit**, 2840 Mt. Danaher Road, Camino, CA 95709, (530) 644-2345
- **Butte Unit**, 176 Nelson Avenue, Oroville, CA 95965, (530) 538-7111
- **Humboldt-Del Norte Unit**, 118 S. Fortuna Blvd., Fortuna, CA 95540, (707) 725-4413
- **Lassen-Modoc Unit**, 697-345 Highway 36, Susanville, CA 96130, (530) 257-4171
- **Mendocino Unit**, 17501 N. Highway 101, Willits, CA 95490, (707) 459-7414
- **Nevada-Yuba-Placer Unit**, 13760 Lincoln Way, Auburn, CA 95603, (530) 823-4904
- **San Mateo-Santa Cruz Unit**, 6059 Highway 9, Felton, CA 95018, (831) 335-5353

- **Santa Clara Unit**, 15670 Monterey Street, Morgan Hill, CA 95037, (408) 779-2121
- **Shasta-Trinity Unit**, 875 Cypress Avenue, Redding, CA 96001, (530) 225-2418
- **Siskiyou Unit**, 1809 Fair Lane Road, Yreka, CA 96097, (530) 842-3516
- **Sonoma-Lake-Napa Unit**, 1199 Big Tree Road, St. Helena, CA 94574, (707) 967-1400
- **Tehama-Glenn Unit**, 604 Antelope Blvd., Red Bluff, CA 96080, (530) 529-8548

SOUTHERN REGION

Applications accepted on a FILE-IN-PERSON basis ONLY at the units listed below. Each applicant must appear in person Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

- **Fresno-Kings Unit**, 210 S. Academy Avenue, Sanger, CA 93657, (559) 485-7500
- **Madera-Mariposa-Merced Unit**, 5366 Highway 49 North, Mariposa, CA 95338, (209) 966-3622
- **Riverside Unit**, 210 W. San Jacinto, Perris, CA 92570, (909) 940-6900
- **San Benito-Monterey Unit**, 2221 Garden Road, Monterey, CA 93940-5385, (831) 647-6208
- **San Bernardino Unit**, 3800 Sierra Way, San Bernardino, CA 92405, (909) 881-6900
- **San Diego Unit**, 2249 Jamacha Road, El Cajon, CA 92019, (619) 590-3100
- **San Luis Obispo Unit**, 635 N. Santa Rosa, San Luis Obispo, CA 93405, (805) 543-4244
- **Tulare Unit**, 1968 S. Lovers Lane, Visalia, CA 93277, (559) 732-5954
- **Tuolumne-Calaveras Unit**, 785 Mountain Ranch Road, San Andreas, CA 95249, (209) 754-3831

To view the job flyer and download an application, go to the CAL FIRE Careers website at: www.fire.ca.gov/about/about_careers_fireprotection_seasonal.php

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

Minimum Qualifications for Seasonal Firefighter positions:

- Must be 18 years of age by time of appointment to a firefighter 1 position.

NOTE: A special thank you to Andrew Hunter, former Chabot College Fire Technology student for providing me with this information. Andrew works as an Engineer for the Modesto Fire Department and used to be a Firefighter with CDF. I appreciate your time and assistance!

For additional information, contact:

North Coast Headquarters: (707) 576-2275
 Human Resources Office: (916) 445-7801
 Southern Region Headquarters: (559) 243-4100

FIRE SERVICE TRAINING OPPORTUNITY:

Firenuggets.com

PRESENTS

Here are a number of fire service seminars being offered by FireNuggets.com in 2010 – sign up now as they will surely sell out and be very popular! For more information, go to their website at www.firenuggets.com

Seminar #1:

Thursday, January 28, 2010 — "Lineboss • Engine Company Errors — The Dirty Dozen • Tactical Safety" — A three part program": Presented by Lieutenant Ray McCormack, Fire Department, City of New York

Lineboss: The decisions made by the engine officer directly impact the safety of everyone on the fireground. This section examines the fireground decision-making process regarding hose line selection, placement, and stretching techniques for fires in private dwellings, multiple dwellings, high-rise, and commercial buildings. Learn to separate what works from what doesn't and why.

Engine Company Errors – The Dirty Dozen: This section examines the twelve most common tactical errors made by engine companies on the fireground. These errors have led to firefighter injuries and deaths. Learn how to recognize and avoid making these errors.

Tactical Safety: This class examines several dozen tactical safety procedures to incorporate into your daily fireground operations. These procedures will increase your operational safety and reduce fireground injuries. Through the use of video, discussion, case histories, and shared experiences you'll be able to quickly incorporate real safety into your departments training and tactical operations.

For details on this seminar, go to: <http://www.firenuggets.com/seminarbaypro10.htm>

Seminar #2:

Thursday, March 25, 2010 — "Proper Firefighting Mindset Leads to Strategic and Tactical Success": Presented by District Chief Dave McGrail, Denver Fire Department

Because most of our emergency responses don't turn out to be major events, we as human beings can slowly succumb to the deadly disease of complacency, and bad habits can quickly take hold. Even with the best of intentions, and clearly knowing what the "right thing" to do is; we can find ourselves taking short cuts, and relying on luck to get us out of trouble. It is only through the application of good habits, at every incident, that we can begin to ensure the best possible outcome. This interactive workshop will help the attendee identify the direct correlation between the development and application of good daily habits, and success on the fireground. The concept of the "Proper Firefighting Mind-Set" will be introduced and

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reinforced throughout the day. Fireground operations, from a small vehicle fire, to a fast moving fire on the upper floors of a high-rise building will be discussed. Slides, videos, and various real life case studies will be used to illustrate the result of both good habits and bad.

Attendees will leave energized, with a renewed dedication to the development of good habits, and their consistent application on the fireground.

For details on this seminar, go to: <http://www.firenuggets.com/seminarbaypro10.htm>

Seminar #3:

Thursday, May 6, 2010 — "The Station Fire: An Incident Commander's Perspective": Presented by Deputy Chief Mike Bryant, Los Angeles County Fire Department

What started out on August 26, 2009 as a 10-acre brush fire in the Angeles National Forest above the City of La Canada rapidly turned into the largest fire ever recorded in the history of Los Angeles County and the tenth largest in California history.

Deputy Chief Bryant was one of the Unified Incident Commanders on the Station Fire. His presentation will be in two parts. Part one will include an overview of the command challenges and accomplishments throughout the Station Incident. Part two will include an overview of the events leading up to the sad and tragic deaths of two Los Angeles County firefighters while performing fire fighting operations at Fire Camp 16.

For details on this seminar, go to: <http://www.firenuggets.com/seminarbaypro10.htm>

Seminar #4:

Thursday, November 4, 2010 — "Fireground Responsibility" and "Leadership Lessons for the Fire Service": Presented by Battalion Chief John Salka, Fire Department, City of New York

"Fireground Responsibility": This is a program that examines a firefighter line-of-duty death and the investigation and report that followed. Several important contributing factors were uncovered and are common factors in many firefighter fatalities. Chief Salka takes a look at the fire, the strategy and the tactics that were employed at this fire as well as the contributing factors. Each of the items that played a role in the fatality are examined and discussed and suggestions result that may prevent future fatalities on the fireground.

"Leadership Lessons for the Fire Service": This is a dynamic program that illustrates the importance of effective leadership in the fire service. There are many different elements that make leadership a powerful force in any organization and the fire service is no exception. Chief Salka will discuss Integrity, Inspiration, Innovation, Intensity and several other aspects of the effective and successful fire service leader. Whether you are an aspiring company officer or a chief, you will find this to be an inspiring and motivating program

For details on this seminar, go to: <http://www.firenuggets.com/seminarbaypro10.htm>

ALL FOUR 2010 SEMINARS:

- *Four seminars, five speakers, and quality professional networking, all for one low price of \$330, a \$110 savings off the individual seminar fees. This is 100% tax deductible as a professional education expense.*

For details on this four-seminar option, go to
<http://www.firenuggets.com/seminarbaypro10.htm>

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

Carr Convention Center
4400 Rosewood Drive
Pleasanton, CA 94588

**CAREER DEVELOPMENT INFORMATION FROM
THE U.S. FIRE ADMINISTRATION:**

Application Procedures Announced for the 2010 Harvard Fire Executive Fellowship Program

Emmitsburg, MD - Application procedures have been announced for the [2010 Harvard Fire Executive Fellowship Program](#). The program is once again sponsored through a partnership between the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC), Fire Protection Publications/International Fire Service Training Association (FPP/IFSTA), the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), and the Department of Homeland Security/U.S. Fire Administration (USFA).

USFA Administrator Kelvin J. Cochran, in announcing the 2010 program said, "The U.S. Fire Administration and our funding partners, the IAFC, FPP/IFSTA, and the NFPA, are excited once again to sponsor a number of fellows who will attend the *Senior Executives in State and Local Government* program at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government next summer. The curriculum, faculty, and setting are truly outstanding. Most importantly, this premier program can provide tools and experiences in confronting the collective challenges which fire executives face. I personally know many fire executives who have benefited from the State and Local Program and found it extremely valuable when examining and understanding the relationships between careerists, elected, and appointed officials."

Senior fire executives who are selected will be awarded fellowships to attend Harvard's annual *Program for Senior Executives in State and Local Government*. The 3-week program is conducted on the Harvard campus in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Selected Fellows will be assigned to attend one of the two session dates: June 7-25, 2010 or July 5-23, 2010. Fellows **must be available** to attend either session.

Program Criteria

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The following criteria and guidelines have been established for the 2010 program:

- Application is open to *senior fire executives* who have demonstrated significant career accomplishments and have the potential to impact and initiate change. **Attainment of a senior position is less important than demonstrated experience in facilitating significant change within a public sector setting.**
- Preference may be given to applicants who are graduates of the National Fire Academy's [Executive Fire Officer Program](#), although program completion is not a prerequisite. Preference may also be given to applicants who have completed graduate-level degree programs or course work.
- Individuals whose organizations have been represented in the Harvard Fellowship Program during 2007, 2008, or 2009 will not be considered. The program is available to international participants.

Application Instructions

(Please follow these three steps carefully as the application procedures have changed from prior years).

1. Applicants must complete and submit the Harvard/Kennedy School of Government [Application for Executive Education](#) (DOC, 255 Kb). This form-fillable document can be completed for submission to the address listed below, not to Harvard. It is recommended that this form be saved to your computer. For the question “*Who will be the financial sponsor of your participation?*” please enter “IAFC/FPP-IFSTA/NFPA/USFA Fellowship”. Make sure that you attach your essay responses (250 words or less for each question response).

2. Enclose a current resume or curriculum vitae.

3. Enclose a letter of recommendation from your senior official. If the applicant is the Chief, the letter should be written by the jurisdictional head (e.g., Mayor or City Manager, etc.). Otherwise, the recommendation should be from the Fire Chief.

4. **Please do not submit your application package directly to the Harvard Kennedy School of Government.** Mail the application package (traceable mail with receipt is recommended) no later than February 12, 2010 (postmark) to the following address:

Harvard Fellowship Program
International Association of Fire Chiefs
c/o Ms. **Ann Davison**
4025 Fair Ridge Drive - Suite 300
Fairfax, Virginia 22033-2868

5. For questions regarding application procedures only, please contact Ms. Mary Wingert at the U.S. Fire Administration, (301) 447-1085 or mary.wingert@dhs.gov.

6. If the applicant's organization or position should change (voluntarily or involuntarily) after the application package has been submitted, she/he is obligated to notify Ms. Wingert.

Application packages postmarked after February 12, 2010, will not be considered.

For more information please visit the [USFA](#) or [Harvard University/John F. Kennedy School of Government Senior Executives in State and Local Government](#) Web sites.

FIRE SERVICE TRAINING OPPORTUNITY:

CALM THE CHAOS! MASTERING FIREGROUND COMMAND

2-DAY SIMULATION WORKSHOP

TODAY'S FIREGROUND SHOULD BE A CALM AND ORCHESTRATED EVENT, BUT OFTEN IT IS NOT!

FEWER FIRES, MASS ATTRITION, AND LITTLE OR NO COMMAND TRAINING HAVE CREATED AN ERA IN TODAY'S FIRE SERVICE WHERE THE SIMPLE "BREAD AND BUTTER" HOUSE FIRE IS A SENTINEL EVENT.

THE NIOSH TOP 5 LINE OF DUTY DEATH CAUSES ON THE FIREGROUND SURROUND SIZE UP, COMMAND, COMMUNICATIONS, ACCOUNTABILITY AND SOP'S.

PARTICIPATE IN SIMULATIONS FOR HOUSE FIRES, GARDEN/CENTER HALL APARTMENTS, COMMERCIAL, HIGHRISE, WILDLAND, MCI, HAZARDOUS MATERIALS INCIDENTS AND REVIEW ACTUAL INCIDENTS TO GET ANSWERS TO THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS...

- HOW DO I SET CLEAR TACTICAL OBJECTIVES, HAVE CLEAR COMMUNICATIONS AND ESTABLISH COMMAND PRESENCE ON MY FIRES?
- HOW DO I CREATE A PERSONAL SYSTEM THAT BLENDS ALL OF MY CLASSES, CERTIFICATIONS, SOP'S, ICS, AND TACTICAL FUNDAMENTALS INTO A SIMPLE, STREET SMART AND EFFECTIVE WAY?
- WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN SIZE UPS AND ARRIVAL REPORTS AND HOW DO I BECOME GREAT AT BOTH?
- WHAT ARE THE TRIGGER POINTS AND SAFETY ISSUES OF OFFENSIVE, DEFENSIVE AND COMBINATION STRATEGIES?
- WHAT ARE THE KEY POINTS TO RESCUE, EXPOSURES, CONFINEMENT, EXTINGUISHMENT, OVERHAUL, VENTILATION AND SALVAGE?
- HOW DO I REALLY USE ICS DAY-TO-DAY AND GET BEYOND "CHECKING THE BOXES"?
- HOW DO WE GET SOP'S/SOG'S WORKING IN MY DEPARTMENT?
- WHEN DO WE CALL AN AUDIBLE ON THE SOP'S?
- WHAT COULD HURT ME OR MY CREW TONIGHT?

THIS INTENSE, HANDS-ON AND INTERACTIVE WORKSHOP HITS THESE ISSUES HEAD ON AND WILL SIMPLIFY THE COMPONENTS OF TACTICS & STRATEGY, SOP'S AND ICS. WE SYNTHESIZE THESE 3 KEY INGREDIENTS TO HELP YOU DRASTICALLY IMPROVE THE WAY YOU COMMAND YOUR NEXT INCIDENT OR HANDLE YOUR UPCOMING ASSESSMENT CENTER! **DON'T BELIEVE THE LIE THAT YOU CANNOT PREPARE FOR THE TEST AND THE JOB AT THE SAME TIME. THE MILITARY, AIRLINES, AND NASA DO IT, AND IT'S ABOUT TIME THE FIRE SERVICE DID!**

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

- ✓ **CURRENT OFFICERS WHO DESIRE TO DRAMATICALLY IMPROVE THEIR FIREGROUND COMMAND ABILITIES**
- ✓ **ASPIRING OFFICERS WHO DESIRE TO DEVELOP A SYSTEM FOR OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE FOR THE ASSESSMENT CENTER TEST AND THE JOB**
- ✓ **TRAINING OFFICERS WHO DESIRE THE LATEST IN TACTICAL TRAINING**

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 SIMULATION STRATEGY AND TACTICS. CHIEF KASTROS IS AN FDIC INSTRUCTOR, TEACHING FIREGROUND TACTICS AND LEADERSHIP/TEAM BUILDING FOR FIRE DEPARTMENTS THROUGHOUT THE UNITED STATES. ANTHONY IS THE PROGRAM DIRECTOR FOR THE SACRAMENTO METRO FIRE COMMAND TRAINING CENTER AND CURRENTLY A LINE BATTALION CHIEF SUPERVISING 10 COMPANIES.

JANUARY 19-20, 2010 - FOLSOM FIRE DEPARTMENT - \$250.00
Go To www.trainfirefighters.com FOR ONLINE REGISTRATION

FIRE SERVICE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY:

The **Tucson (AZ) Fire Department** will be accepting applications for the position of **Firefighter** December 28, 2009 through January 10, 2010.

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

For more information about the **Tucson Fire Department**, visit their website at: www.tucsonaz.gov/fire/index.html

For more information about the **Tucson Fire Department Firefighters Association, International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) Local 479**, visit their website at: www.tucsonfirefighters.com

- The following information was taken from the City of Tucson Fire Department website above – please verify for yourself to ensure the information is accurate and complete.

*Welcome to the Tucson Fire Department Recruitment Information
Recruitment Information*

Updated October 27, 2009. All dates subject to change.

APPLICATIONS

December 28, 2009 to January 7, 2010 at www.tucsonaz.gov, then click on the 'JOBS' link in the lower right hand corner. This is where all open jobs can be accessed.

OPEN HOUSES

WRITTEN EXAM

The Human Resources Department administers the first step in the recruitment process, the written exam. The written exam is scheduled to be given January 25, 2010 Time TBD.

The written exam is being reviewed with a high probability of changing from the previous video-based test. More information will be provided when we confirm the direction of the written test.

CPAT ORIENTATIONS

February 5, 6, and 7, 2010

The second step in the application process is the Candidate Physical Ability Test (CPAT). Tucson Fire will Provide applicants an opportunity to learn more about the CPAT. Only those candidates who score high enough on the written exam will be invited to take the CPAT. Candidates will watch a video on what CPAT is, how to successfully pass the exam, explain failure points, and receive preparation tips. During these sessions, the candidates will receive "hands-on" familiarity with the test apparatus, and receive guidance on specific conditioning regiments and techniques to help them prepare for the test. The exact content of the Orientations have yet to be determined, but all candidates will have exactly the same opportunities during the Orientations. These Orientations are not required, but are strongly encouraged.

[CPAT Preparation Guide](#)
[CPAT Orientation Guide](#)

CPAT TIMED PRACTICE

First Session: March 5, 6, and 7, 2010
Second Session March 19, 20, and 21, 2010

Candidates will be given the opportunity for two timed practice runs within 30 days of the actual CPAT. Timed practices are not required, but they are strongly encouraged. Timed practices on the CPAT course will give the candidates the opportunity to gauge their fitness levels and make adjustments in their training to better prepare them for success in the CPAT.

CPAT

April 5 to 9, 2010 Time TBD

Those candidates who score high enough on the written exam will proceed to this step in the hiring process. The CPAT will be pass/fail and times will not affect overall ranking. The Tucson Fire Department will provide candidates with several opportunities to become familiar with the CPAT. Candidates must complete the CPAT course in 10 minutes and 20 seconds.

TRAINING CHIEF ORAL BOARDS

Date to be Determined

The third step in the application process is the Training Chief Oral Board. During this portion of the testing process, the candidates will be asked a series of questions to aid the Tucson Fire Department in the selection process.

These three portions constitute the majority of the Civil Service testing process. Once a candidate has completed these three steps, they are given a total weighted score and ranked (according to their score) on an Eligibility List. Those applicants selected from these interviews are offered a position with the Tucson Fire Department as a Firefighter Recruit. Pending a successful background check and physical examination from the City Physician, the Recruit will start our 22-week training Academy.

Tentative class to begin in July 2010, based on Department needs.

For information regarding the testing process, please call the City of Tucson Human Resources Department at (520) 791-4241 or the TFD Recruitment Hotline at (520) 791-5211 ext. 1202.

Call the Recruitment Hot Line at (520) 791-5211 x1202 at any time if your questions have not been addressed or answered. Please leave a message and we will return your call as soon as possible.

The City of Tucson is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

FIRE SERVICE TRAINING OPPORTUNITY:

Firenuggets.com

PRESENTS

Deputy Chief Mike Bryant

Los Angeles County Fire Department

“COMMAND AND CONTROL”

- March 11 & 12, 2010 - 09:00 -16:00 each day –

VACAVILLE, CA

Day 1: Risk Assessment and Decision Making Process: Have you ever asked yourself how could things have gone so wrong? Or, how could they not see the fatal fire event coming? It is my observation that we (the fire service) are not providing our company and chief officers with the proper tools/training so they can be better equipped to make safe and effective fire ground decisions. Rather, we teach them the steps (check boxes) on how to successfully navigate a promotional examination. Once they are promoted they never fully understand how and why they made those decisions, this is called (seat of your pants fire fighting). This segment will take you on an informative journey by thoroughly examining a simple 5 step decision making process on how to make safe fire ground decisions while operating in very dynamic high stress emergency environments. Student interaction/participation is employed using DVD's, pictures, and actual real life emergency scenarios.

Day 2: Is a breakdown the 8 steps of the "Incident Action Plan" and Scenarios. Many fire ground incident commanders do not have an idea of how to develop and communicate an effective "plan." This segment presents a solid checklist that keeps the incident commander on task no matter how simple or complex the incident. As part of this program, task saturation is explored and how it hinders the incident commander from focusing on the "next" instead of the "now." Student interaction is used to build an effective and efficient incident action plan. Also employed are videos, pictures, and the use of the Fire Studio simulator program.

Total cost is \$225, and includes lunch each day, class materials and certificate.

Location:

Travis Federal Credit Union
1 Travis Way
Vacaville, CA

Deputy Fire Chief Mike Bryant is a 28-year veteran of the County of Los Angeles Fire Department. He has held the ranks of Firefighter/Paramedic, Firefighter Specialist, Fire Prevention Inspector, Fire Captain, Training Captain, Training Program Developer, Fire Battalion Chief and Assistant Fire Chief. Chief Bryant currently manages and oversees the East Regional Operations Bureau. He provides leadership for 33 cities, 76 fire stations, 4 divisions, 10 battalions and 1,400 personnel. Chief Bryant holds a Bachelor of Science degree in occupational studies from California State University, Long Beach. He is a qualified Type II incident commander, operations section chief, safety officer and division/group supervisor. In addition, he is a certified Master Instructor from California State Fire Training.

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

FIRE SERVICE TRAINING & SAFETY
INFORMATION:

Fire in the United States Now Available from USFA

WASHINGTON – United States Fire Administrator Kelvin J. Cochran announced today the availability of the fifteenth edition of *Fire in the United States*. This edition of *Fire in the United States* covers the 5-year period from 2003 to 2007, with a primary focus on 2007. The purpose of the report is to aid the fire service, local leadership, and the general public with fire loss information which may be used to set priorities, establish and evaluate specific fire programs, and serve as a guide for fire data analyses at state and local levels of government.

“Since the inception of the United States Fire Administration in 1974, we have endeavored to provide the fire and emergency services the data it needs to combat the fire problem which still exists in the country” Cochran said. “This fifteenth edition of the *Fire in the United States* will emphasize the areas which still need improvement so we may continue to reduce the nation’s fire losses, especially deaths and injuries.”

The report focuses on the national fire problem and provides an overview of fires and losses in buildings, vehicles and other mobile properties, and other properties. The report also examines fire and fire loss trends, fire casualties by population characteristics, and fire cause profiles by property type. Detailed analyses of the residential and nonresidential building fire problems will be published as stand-alone reports.

Fire in the United States is a statistical overview of fires in the United States, focusing on the latest year in which data were available at the time of preparation. The primary source of data is the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS), along with data from the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), State Fire Marshals’ offices, U.S. Census Bureau, and the Consumer Price Index.

Fire in the United States may be downloaded from the USFA’s Web site at <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/statistics/reports/fius.shtm>. Printed copies are expected to be available at a later date.

FIRE SERVICE PROMOTIONAL PREPARATION CLASSES BY CHUCK WILSON:

- **Assessment Center and Fire Simulation Workshops**
- **Instructor: Chuck Wilson**

Assessment Center Workshop –

Designed for those who will participate in an Assessment Center on their Promotional Exam.

COURSE CONTENT:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| - Written Multiple Choice Exercises | - Written Exercises |
| - Leaderless Group Exercises | - Subordinate Counseling |
| - In-Basket Exercises | - Practice Exercises |
| - Oral Presentations | - NEW Student Workbook |

Simulator Workshop –

Designed for those who will have a Simulation on their Promotional exam.

COURSE CONTENT:

- Strategy & Tactics
- S.P.A.R.S. Technique
- Initial Report Exercises
- Raters Sheets
- Exam Situations
- "Hot-Seat" For All
- Practice Simulation Exercises
- The "No-Zone"

Instructor: CHUCK WILSON

Chuck is recognized as one of the nation's leading instructors in Fire Department Promotional Testing. Most recently honored as the recipient of the Ed Bent Award as California Fire Instructor of the year for 2007. A Southern California Chief Officer with a Bachelor Degree from San Diego State. Senior Master Instructor in the California Fire Training System, Adjunct Instructor for 14 Colleges including Cal State, Los Angeles, and Texas A&M WMD Programs. An editorial contributor to The IFSTA 5th and 6th Edition Fire Instructor Textbook. This will NOT be a dry or boring class. Chuck has taught these classes to over 2500 students and proves you can have fun while learning. Exercises, Rating Sheets and Key Performance Elements are stressed.

Class Locations and Dates:

Roseville, CA	El Cajon, CA	Tucson, AZ
<u>January 11, 2010</u> Assessment Center	<u>January 14, 2010</u> Assessment Center	<u>January 18, 2010</u> Assessment Center
<u>January 12, 2010</u> Simulator Workshop	<u>January 15, 2010</u> Simulator Workshop	<u>January 19, 2010</u> Simulator Workshop
Roseville Fire Training Center 2030 Hilltop Circle Roseville, CA	Heartland Fire Training Center 1301 Marshall Avenue El Cajon, CA 92020	Golder Ranch Fire District Training Facility 3885 E. Golder Ranch Drive Tucson, AZ

Register at: www.promotionalworkshops.com

Classes are \$110.00 per day, per class, Pre-registered

\$120.00 per day per class at the door

3% Credit Card fee

* Now Accepting Visa and Master Card *

For More Information, contact:

CHUCK WILSON

77-263 Maliko Street

Kailua Kona, Hawaii 96740-4468

(808) 987-0038 Cell

cwilson@promotionalworkshops.com

FIRE SERVICE TRAINING & SAFETY INFORMATION:

FIREFIGHTER LIFE SAFETY

LEARNING



Media
CENTER

Everyone Goes Home® Learning Media Center E-Alert - December 22, 2009



» Click Here to Get Started «

This Month's Feature
[Online Courage to Be Safe® Training](#)

To participate in a valid online *Courage to Be Safe®* program that will qualify for a certificate of completion you must:

- Register for the online course.
- Complete the *Courage to Be Safe®* online.
- Complete the required paper for evaluation.
- Answer questions from a program mentor.
- Complete an evaluation at the end.

» Register: [Online Courage to Be Safe®](#)

» Archive: [More 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.




A company of **Allianz** (A)

www.everyonegoeshome.com

FIRE SERVICE TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES:

I would like to invite you to **Firehouse World** taking place February 28 – March 4, 2010 at the San Diego (CA) Convention Center. I'm teaching these classes at the conference and thought you might be interested in attending:

Responsibilities of the First-Due Company Officer

Tuesday, March 2 at 1:45 pm – 3:15 pm

- This session will assist fire service personnel who may find themselves as the first-arriving company officer at an emergency scene. The first-due company officer has the potential to make or break an incident, as they are the one that will be making the most important decisions that have to be made upon arrival. Given a variety of simulated incidents, attendees will have an opportunity to perform size-up, establish incident objectives, assign companies, establish tactical objectives, learn from the experiences of other attendees, and most importantly, learn how to effectively command and control an incident as the first-due company officer.

How to Excel at Promotional Exams – The Fireground Simulation Exercise

Wednesday, March 3 at 1:45 pm – 3:15 pm

- The fireground simulation is one of the most critical events, and sometimes the most weighted event of a promotional process assessment center. Whether it is a single-unit response or a multiple alarm fire, commanding an incident can be very challenging, especially if you do not have a pre-determined plan to run an incident. Learn how to go from just being the “check-box” incident commander to the incident commander who not only appears to be in control, but is in control! This presentation will help the student be more organized and more complete when faced with an emergency simulation on their next promotional examination. More importantly, this presentation will help provide a framework for the student to use in the position once they are successfully promoted, when the rubber really meets the road.

If you are not able to attend the conference, please be my guest and visit the West Coast's largest combined exhibit hall of fire, EMS and rescue products. Over 350 exhibitors will be on display. Register online with the **FPSP72** and you'll receive **FREE ENTRANCE TO THE EXHIBIT FLOOR** as well as the opening ceremony and keynote presentation being held on Tuesday, March 2 at 10:15 AM. Visit www.FirehouseWorld.com for all the event details.

I'm looking forward to seeing you!

Best Regards, Steve Prziborowski

FIRE SERVICE PROMOTIONAL PREPARATION CLASSES BY ANDONI KASTROS:



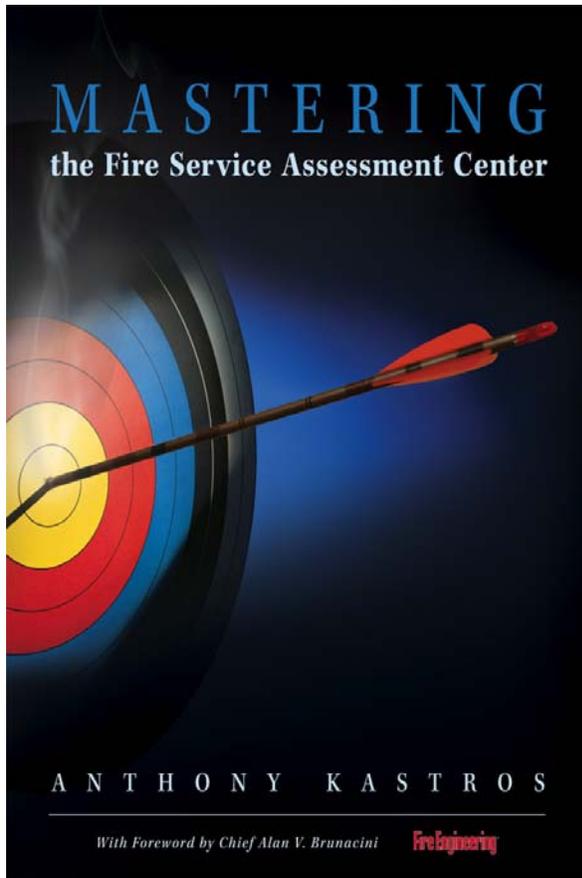
MASTERING THE FIRE SERVICE ASSESSMENT CENTER

4-DAY WORKSHOP

INSTRUCTOR: ANTHONY KASTROS, AUTHOR OF

MASTERING THE FIRE SERVICE ASSESSMENT CENTER
By FIRE ENGINEERING

- PARTICIPATE IN EMERGENCY SIMULATIONS, ORAL PRESENTATIONS, VISUAL RESUMES, PROMOTIONAL INTERVIEWS, COUNSELING SESSIONS, VIDEO COUNSELING, IN-BASKETS, AND SUPERVISORY EXERCISES.



- DISCOVER THE PROPER MENTALITY FOR THE TEST, INCLUDING HOW TO SHED BAGGAGE AT THE DOOR.
- FOCUS ON BECOMING POSITION ORIENTED VS. TEST ORIENTED.
- LEARN ABOUT THE 27 KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND ABILITIES THAT SPAN THE DIMENSIONS OF LEADERSHIP, MANAGEMENT AND EMERGENCY OPERATIONS.
- ASSESS AND BE ASSESSED USING SCORING CRITERIA UTILIZED IN TODAY'S ASSESSMENT CENTERS.
- PRACTICE EXERCISE-SPECIFIC TOOLS AND AVOID CANDIDATE PITFALLS.

* INCLUDES BEST-SELLING BOOK PUBLISHED BY **FIRE ENGINEERING.**

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

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

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

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.

JANUARY 25-28, 2010 - EL DORADO HILLS, CA. - \$495.00*
GO TO WWW.TRAINFIREFIGHTERS.COM FOR ONLINE REGISTRATION
CLASS SIZE LIMITED TO DUE TO DEPTH OF INSTRUCTION

FIRE SERVICE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY:

The **Denver (CO) Fire Department** will be accepting applications for the positions of **Firefighter** starting November 2, 2009 and will be open until all testing slots have been filled; then, walk-ins will be accepted if any slots open up. Thus, it is critical to apply online ASAP if you are interested, to ensure you get the best testing time slot in early 2010.

- To view additional information about the testing process and to apply, go to: <http://www.denvergov.org/civilservice/FirefighterTestInformation/tabid/435126/Default.aspx>
- To view overview of what to expect as a Denver Firefighter, including requirements to apply, salary and benefits, and career opportunities, go to: <http://www.denvergov.org/Recruit/EmploymentDenverFirefighter/tabid/393407/Default.aspx>

For more information about the **City of Denver**, visit their website at: www.denvergov.org/

For more information about the **Denver Fire Department**, visit their website at: www.denvergov.org/Default.aspx?alias=www.denvergov.org/FireDepartment

For more information about the **Denver Fire Department Firefighters Association, International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) Local 858**, visit their website at: www.iaff858.org/

PROMOTIONAL PREPARATION COURSE:

By popular demand, I have scheduled another promotional preparation course in Marin County in April 2010! It's never too early to start preparing for your next promotional exam!

Next Scheduled Class:

- Wednesday **April 14** and Thursday **April 15**, 2010.
- **Mill Valley, CA**

Class size is limited, so register early!

How To Excel At Fire Service Promotional Exams!

-
- Tired of not getting promoted off of your last fire service promotional examination?
 - Preparing for an upcoming promotional process?
 - Want to do so well you won't have to take the promotional examination again?
 - Then this class is for you!

TOPICS TO BE COVERED INCLUDE:

- So you want to promote in the fire service? An overview of what to expect & prepare for.
- 11 steps for success in the promotional process.
- Creating a value-added promotional resume!
- What to expect on the written test
- Ace your promotional interview!
- Personnel counseling problems
- In-Baskets / Writing Exercises
- Teaching demonstrations / oral presentations
- How to smoke the emergency simulation portion of the assessment center!
- ICS, Strategy and tactics review
- Preparing for the position, not just the test
- Going from just checking the box to understanding what you're doing
- Managing the incident, from beginning to end
- Simulator practice and critiquing on various types of incidents, including: Structure fires (residential, high-rise, commercial, apartment, etc.), Wildland fires, Mass-Casualty Incidents, & Haz Mat Incidents.

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

Instructor: Steve Prziborowski, Battalion Chief and Master Instructor. Steve was recently named as the 2008 California Fire Instructor of the Year and has coached and mentored numerous personnel to get promoted or hired in the fire service.

To Register: Go to www.code3firetraining.com for secure payment with Pay Pal, and most major credit cards. Or, if paying by Cashier's Check, Money Order, or Personal Check, email me at sprziborowski@aol.com for more information.

More Info: Contact Steve Prziborowski, 408-205-9006 or sprziborowski@aol.com - Also, visit my websites at www.chabotfire.com and www.code3firetraining.com for more information to assist you with your next promotional examination or career development needs!

Class Details:

Mill Valley, CA	
Dates:	Wednesday April 14 , <u>and</u> Thursday April 15 , 2010
Location:	Southern Marin Fire District Headquarters Classroom 308 Reed Boulevard Mill Valley, CA 94941
Time of class:	0900 to 1700 hours each day
Cost:	\$220.00 for the two-day session

***PUBLIC EDUCATION & FIREFIGHTER SAFETY INFO
FROM THE U.S. FIRE ADMINISTRATION:***



The high cost of home heating fuels and utilities has caused many Americans to search for alternative home heating sources such as wood burning stoves, space heaters, and fireplaces. Heating is one of the leading causes of residential fires. Over one-quarter of these fires result from improper maintenance of equipment, specifically the failure to clean the equipment.

Carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning is another danger when using heating equipment fueled by fossil fuel. It occurs most often when equipment is not vented properly. CO deaths have been on the rise since 1999. On average there were 181 unintentional non-fire deaths from CO poisoning associated with consumer products per year from 2004-2006 compared to 123 from 1999-2001 (Source: Consumer Product Safety Commission).

[Learn More about Heating Fire Safety »](#)

FIRE SERVICE TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES:

TAKE FIRE OFFICER & FIRE TECH CLASSES ON THE INTERNET REGISTER FOR SPRING 2010 CLASSES, NOW!

*State Budget Cuts = Less Fire Classes
Register Early, Classes are Expected to Fill Fast.*

Please pardon the delay, scheduling issues have made the schedule uncertain until this week.

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

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

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

Fire Technology Classes (Entirely on-line)

- Fire Protection Organization
- Fire Prevention Technology
- Fire Protection Equipment & Systems
- Building Construction for Fire Protection
- Fire Behavior & Combustion
- Principles of Fire and Emergency Services Safety and Survival
- Fire Hydraulics
- Apparatus & Equipment
- Fire Company Organization & Procedure

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

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

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

FIRE SERVICE TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES:

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

Fire Department Instructor's Conference (FDIC) – Indianapolis, IN

April 19 through 24, 2010

Go to www.fdic.com for more information.

Firehouse World – San Diego, CA

February 28 through March 4, 2010

Go to www.firehouseworld.com for more information.

Firehouse Expo – Baltimore, MD

July 20 through 25, 2010

Go to www.firehouseexpo.com

EMS Today Conference – Baltimore, MD

March 2 through 6, 2010

Go to www.emstodayconference.com for more information.

Fire Rescue International – Chicago, IL

August 24 through 28, 2010

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

CANDIDATE PHYSICAL ABILITY TEST (CPAT) INFORMATION:

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

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

CPAT TESTING CENTER LOCATIONS:

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

Northern California
526 Commerce Way
Livermore, CA 94551

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

To see the **available dates** to take the CPAT at any of the above three locations, visit their website at www.cpatonline.org

FIRE SERVICE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY:

The Philadelphia (PA) Fire Department will be accepting applications for the positions of **Firefighter** until February 5, 2010.

- To view the job announcement and to apply, go to: www.phila.gov/personnel/

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

For more information about the **Philadelphia Fire Department**, visit their website at: www.phila.gov/fire/about/index_homepage.html

For more information about the **Philadelphia Fire Department Firefighters Association, International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) Local 22**, visit their website at: www.iaff22.org

FIREFIGHTER EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES:

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

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

- www.firerecruit.com

- www.firecareers.com

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

FIREFIGHTER FATALITY INFORMATION:

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

Name:	Tommy Lee Adams
Rank:	Battalion Chief
Age:	51
Gender:	Male
Status:	Career
Years of Service:	31
Date of Incident:	02/21/2009

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

Time of Incident: 2100hrs
Date of Death: 12/12/2009
Fire Department: Shreveport Fire Department
Address: 263 North Common Street, Shreveport, LA 71101
Fire Department Chief: Brian A. Crawford
Fire Department Website: <http://www.shreveportla.gov/dept/fire/index.asp>

Incident Description: Chief Adams fell from a fire department ladder truck following the Crew of Gemini Mardi Gras parade earlier this year. At the end of the parade route, the fire trucks pulled to the side of the road to secure any loose empty boxes that held beads or cups. While clearing debris and boxes from the ladder truck, Adams fell approximately 10 feet, landing head first on the concrete roadway. Chief Adams' heart stopped and CPR was performed. Chief Adams was transported to Willis Knighton Pierremont hospital where he regained a heart rate, and his condition was listed as critical. He suffered fractures to his cervical (neck) spine and was placed on a breathing machine. In early March, Chief Adams was transferred to a rehab facility in Atlanta, Georgia. Chief Adams had been in a relative state of a coma since sustaining debilitating injuries as a result of this accident and passed away on December 12.

Incident Location: Pending

Funeral Arrangements: 12/16/2009, arrangements will be announced from Chief Crawford's Office as soon as they are available (<http://www.shreveportla.gov/dept/fire/index.asp>).

Memorial Fund Contact and Address: Pending

Tribute is being paid to Battalion Chief Tommy Lee Adams at <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/>

To date, 86 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2009; 83 from incidents that occurred in 2009 and three 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: Gregory Paul Thompson, Jr.
Rank: Assistant Fire Chief
Age: 33
Gender: Male
Status: Career
Years of Service: 17
Date of Incident: 12/12/2009
Time of Incident: 1820hrs
Date of Death: 12/12/2009
Fire Department: South Bay Fire Department
Address: 3506 Shincke Rd NE, Olympia, WA 98506
Fire Department Chief: Brian VanCamp

Incident Description: Assistant Chief Thompson died while on-duty from a self-inflicted gunshot wound.

Incident Location: 6600 block of 73rd Avenue Northeast (USNG: 10T ET 0787 2044)

Funeral Arrangements: Memorial service for Chief Thompson, Saturday, December 19, 2009. North Thurston High School, 600 Sleater Kinney Rd. NE, Olympia WA, at 2 PM. Memorial Fund Contact and Address: Memorial account has been set up at Heritage Bank in Olympia. www.heritagebankwaonline2.com/home/info/con Request funds be directed to "South Bay Fire Association, in memory of Assistant Chief Greg Thompson". Alternate contact, Sean Murphy, Association Secretary, Murphy_sj@hotmail.com

To date, 87 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2009; 84 from incidents that occurred in 2009 and three 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:	Bobby Joe Mullins
Rank:	Assistant Fire Chief
Age:	52
Gender:	Male
Status:	Volunteer
Years of Service:	10
Date of Incident:	12/20/2009
Time of Incident:	Pending
Date of Death:	12/20/2009
Fire Department:	Dante Volunteer Fire Department
Address:	PO Box 86, ST RT 63 N, Dante, VA 24237
Fire Department Chief:	Ricky Neece

Incident Description: While working a vehicle fire, Assistant Chief Mullins became ill. He was treated and transported to the emergency room. Mullins was then transferred to a trauma center but passed away soon after arriving of sudden cardiac arrest.

Incident Location: Pending

Funeral Arrangements: Pending

Memorial Fund Contact and Address: Pending

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

To date, 88 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2009; 85 from incidents that occurred in 2009 and three from previous year incidents. Year-to-date monthly and annual

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

USFA firefighter fatality reports are posted online @
http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/statistics/ff_stats.shtm

AND:

Name: Paul D. Holmes
Rank: Firefighter/Paramedic
Age: 37
Gender: Male
Status: Career
Years of Service: 1
Date of Incident: 12/26/2009
Time of Incident: 2321hrs
Date of Death: 12/28/2009
Fire Department: Douglas County Fire Department
Address: 3901 Chapel Hill Road, Douglasville, GA 30134
Fire Department Chief: Scott Spencer

Incident Description: Firefighter Holmes was responding to a vehicle fire with injuries when the fire department rescue in which he was riding reportedly was struck by a privately owned vehicle that they were attempting to pass; according to news accounts, the rescue vehicle rolled several times, ejecting Holmes. Firefighter Holmes was transported by medivac helicopter to a Level-I trauma center where he was reported to be in stable condition, however, his condition worsened and he subsequently passed away from his injuries. Investigation into the incident continues by the Georgia State Police.

Incident Location: Annewakee Road (USNG: 16S GC 1362 3082, medivac helispot @ 16S GC 119 299)

Funeral Arrangements: Pending, updates will be posted at
www.celebratedouglascounty.com

Memorial Fund Contact and Address: Pending, updates will be posted at
www.celebratedouglascounty.com

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

To date, 89 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2009; 86 from incidents that occurred in 2009 and three 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: Clair Melvin Pierce
Rank: Firefighter
Age: 68
Gender: Male

January 5, 2010

www.chabotfire.com

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

Status: Volunteer
Years of Service: Pending
Date of Incident: 11/26/2009
Time of Incident: Pending
Date of Death: 11/26/2009
Fire Department: Wellsboro Fire Department
Address: PO Box 81, 21 Pearl ST, Wellsboro, PA 16901
Fire Department Chief: Lonnie W. Campbell
Fire Department Website: <http://www.wellsborofire.com/>

Incident Description: Firefighter Pierce passed away at home after responding to a series of EMS and fire calls. The cause and nature of Firefighter Pierce's fatal injury are still to be reported.

Incident Location: Pending.

Funeral Arrangements: Friends and family are invited to Clair's Life Celebration on Tuesday, Dec. 29, from 2 to 4 p.m. and 7 to 9 p.m. at Tussey-Mosher Funeral Home, 139 Main St., Wellsboro. There will be a viewing for fire service personnel at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday at the funeral home. Funeral service will be on Wednesday, Dec. 30, at 11 a.m. at the funeral home, with Rev. Peter A. DeVantier officiating. Burial will be in Wellsboro Cemetery.

Memorial Fund Contact and Address: Memorials may be made in memory of Firefighter Clair Melvin Pierce to the Wellsboro Firemen's Ambulance Association Memorial Fund, P.O. Box 81, Wellsboro, Pa. 16901.

Tribute is being paid to Firefighter Clair Melvin Pierce at <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/>

To date, 90 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2009; 87 from incidents that occurred in 2009 and three 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: Craig C. Starr
Rank: Fire Chief
Age: 44
Gender: Male
Status: Volunteer
Years of Service: Pending
Date of Incident: 12/24/2009
Time of Incident: Pending
Date of Death: 12/24/2009
Fire Department: Plymouth Fire Department
Address: PO Box 130, 20110 North, Plymouth, UT 84330-0130

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

Fire Department Chief: Pending

Incident Description: Fire Chief Starr passed away from an apparent heart attack while working an EMS incident.

Incident Location: Pending

Funeral Arrangements: A funeral service will be held Wednesday, December 30, 2009 11:00 a.m. at the Belmont 1st Ward Church, 16925 North 5200 West, Riverside with Bishop Jan-Erik Schow officiating. A viewing will be held Tuesday, December 29, 2009 from 6:00-8:00 p.m. at Rogers and Taylor Funeral Home, 111 North 100 East, Tremonton and Wednesday from 9:15-10:30 a.m. at the church. Interment will be at the Plymouth Cemetery where a Fireman's Tribute will be held.

Memorial Fund Contact and Address: The family suggests donations to the Plymouth Fire Department.

Tribute is being paid to Fire Chief Craig C. Starr at <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/>

To date, 91 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2009; 88 from incidents that occurred in 2009 and three 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:	Richard Adam Miller
Rank:	Firefighter
Age:	24
Gender:	Male
Status:	Career
Years of Service:	Pending
Date of Incident:	12/29/2009
Time of Incident:	Pending
Date of Death:	12/29/2009
Fire Department:	Belmont Fire Department
Address:	301 Keener BLVD, Belmont, NC 28012
Fire Department Chief:	George Altice

Incident Description: Firefighter Miller collapsed while on duty at the Belmont Fire Department headquarters station, reportedly while participating in physical fitness training activities. Belmont firefighters immediately began resuscitative efforts and Firefighter Miller was transported to Gaston Memorial Hospital where he later passed away. Investigation continues into the cause and type of fatal injury resulting in Firefighter Miller's death.

Incident Location: 301 Keener BLVD, Belmont, NC 28012 (USNG: 17S MU 9654 9910)

Funeral Arrangements: Pending

Memorial Fund Contact and Address: Pending

Tribute is being paid to Firefighter Richard Adam Miller at <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/>

To date, 92 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2009; 89 from incidents that occurred in 2009 and three 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: Steve Koeser
Rank: Firefighter
Age: 33
Gender: Male
Status: Volunteer
Years of Service: 15
Date of Incident: 12/29/2009
Time of Incident: 1920hrs
Date of Death: 12/29/2009
Fire Department: St. Anna Fire Department
Address: N 126 School ST, New Holstein, WI 53061
Fire Department Chief: Bob Thome
Fire Department Website: <http://www.stannafiredept.com/>

Incident Description: Firefighter Koeser died from injuries sustained from a large explosion in the parking lot of a manufacturing plant. Details are pending, but initial reports indicate that the plant was closed and no employees were at the scene when the fire was reported in a dumpster by local law enforcement on patrol in the area. The St. Anna Fire Department responded to the scene and a short time later an explosion took place killing Firefighter Koeser and injuring several other firefighters, one critically. The cause of the fire and explosion remains under investigation by local, state, and federal agencies.

Incident Location: W2002 County Road Q (USNG: 16T DP 0864 6051)

Funeral Arrangements: Pending

Memorial Fund Contact and Address: In honor of Firefighter Steve Koeser, c/o St. Anna Fire Department, N 126 School ST, New Holstein, WI 53061

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

To date, 93 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2009; 90 from incidents that occurred in 2009 and three from previous year incidents. Year-to-date monthly and annual

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

USFA firefighter fatality reports are posted online @ http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/statistics/ff_stats.shtm

AND:

Name: Urban A. Eck
Rank: Captain
Age: 51
Gender: Male
Status: Career
Years of Service: 27
Date of Incident: Pending
Time of Incident: Pending
Date of Death: 01/02/2010
Fire Department: Wichita Fire Department
Address: 455 North Main, 11th Floor, Wichita, KS 67202
Fire Department Chief: Ron Blackwell
Fire Department Website: <http://www.wichita.gov/CityOffices/Fire/>

Incident Description: While operating at the scene of a working fire incident, Captain Eck was not feeling well and reported to the Rehab Sector where his vital signs were irregular and did not return to normal. Eck subsequently worked one more shift during which he responded to several incidents before going to a doctor after reporting that he still did not feel well. Although the doctor hospitalized him, Captain Eck later passed away after surgery from complications associated with an undisclosed cardiac problem.

Incident Location: Pending

Funeral Arrangements: Pending

Memorial Fund Contact and Address: Pending

Tribute is being paid to Fire Captain Urban A. Eck at <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/>

To date, one firefighter fatality has been reported to USFA in 2010 from a previous year incident. 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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USFA does not have a Line-of-Duty-Death (LODD) criterion nor does it make LODD determinations. "Please note, running totals of firefighter fatalities used on these initial notices do not necessarily reflect the number of firefighter fatalities used in totals for the (provisional) monthly year-to-date USFA firefighter fatality reports, or year-end (provisional) reports posted online at www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/statistics/ff_stats.shtm

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 listserv 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

CALIFORNIA FIREFIGHTER LINE OF DUTY DEATH: MYSTERY RASH FOLLOWING EMS RUN

A Firefighter who died after responding to an EMS run, has died in the Line of Duty of a "deadly mystery rash" according to his FD, the Cosumnes CSD FD in California. **FF Richard Ibarra, 42**, died Wednesday at the UC Davis Medical Center. BC John Michelini says Ibarra was very healthy and the rash "destroyed" him. It caused severe internal damage, and doctors have yet to diagnose what it was. FF Ibarra was surrounded by his immediate family and his firefighting family when he died, according to Michelini. Ibarra has been with the Cosumnes Fire Department since 1999. He is survived by his wife and two young children. Memorial service plans are pending and we will keep you updated. As always, our most sincere condolences to all affected by the loss of Firefighter Ibarra.

=CHIEF FIRE OFFICER SUICIDE IN WASHINGTON:

It is with sincere regret that we advise you of the on duty suicide of South Bay (WA) Fire District 8 Assistant Fire Chief Gregory Paul Thompson Jr., 33. We had the pleasure of knowing and working with Chief Thompson. Chief Thompson was found deceased Saturday inside a fire district-owned SUV parked outside his residence. His tragic loss is being recognized as an on duty death, while not an LODD.

FIREFIGHTER/EMT SUICIDE INFORMATION:

Here are some related articles on this obviously very serious subject that should never be taken lightly:

http://firechief.com/health-safety/ar/firefighting_not_without_warning/

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

<http://www.cdc.gov/ViolencePrevention/suicide/index.html>

=FLASHOVER IN NORTH CAROLINA-OUTSTANDING FIRE PHOTOS FROM DAVE STATTER:

Erwin (NC) Firefighters had a CLOSE CALL this week, and it was all caught on film. The members operating inside rolled out the front door, rolling on the front porch and were on fire.

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

They were caught in a flashover. **DaveStatter 911** has some outstanding photos:
<http://tinyurl.com/yzbgfd8>

Here is more training and education information about flashover:

<http://www.firetactics.com/FLASHOVER.htm>

Reading Smoke (Dave Dodson Slides & Video):

<http://www.firefighterclosecalls.com/downloads.php> (Scroll down to FIRST DUE-The Art Of Reading Smoke)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l8CxxwD0lr8> (Video-NFFF)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GQ7B542OSF8&feature=related> (Video-Fire Engineering)

=CONGRATS! CHIEF MARK McLEES & NTSB VICE CHAIR CHRISTOPHER HART

The new **Fire Chief of Syracuse (NY) is Mark McLees**, a 24 year veteran of the Department, who has served as a District Fire Chief for the last 9 years. Mark is a consummate professional and defines dedication and enthusiasm for the job and his members. A veteran FDIC and Firehouse Expo Instructor, Mark is an outstanding choice to lead the SFD. CONGRATS to Chief Mark McLees, an original TSL member on his appointment as Chief of Department-Syracuse, New York.

And congrats to the new **Vice Chair of the National Transportation Safety Board Christopher Hart**. Chris sits with us on the board of the National Firefighter Near Miss System. Chris has a long and respected history in the airline and transportation safety industry as one of the most qualified and educated folks out there-and he loves what he does. On a very interesting note, Chris was worn in by Bill Broadwater, 82. who is one of the original WW2 Tuskegee Airmen. Congrats to Chris Hart.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL,

BillyG

The Secret List 12-17-09 / 1042 Hours

AND:

Hey,

A 17 year old girl was killed this morning when she lost control of her pickup truck, it slid left-of-center and was struck by the northbound Cass-Bloomington-Shiloh Joint Fire Department (Richland County) apparatus. The fire apparatus was returning to the station after responding to a separate car crash and the impact of the fire truck drove both into a ditch on the side of the road. The teen was wearing her seatbelt, had no passengers, but was tragically pronounced dead from the injuries sustained in the crash. The 2 Firefighters on the rig, Scott Jennings and Jacob Beck, were transported with minor injuries. Road conditions in the area early this morning may have been a contributing factor in the crash.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 12-19-09 / 1627 Hours

AND:

Hey,

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

Congrats to FDNY Chief of Department Sal Cassano, who will now succeed the retiring Nicholas Scoppetta as the new Fire Commissioner. Mayor Bloomberg made the announcement at a news conference in City Hall a little while ago. Chief Cassano, a very highly-regarded and respected 40-year veteran of the department, has served as chief of department since 2006 and was previously the department's chief of operations. "Chief Cassano is a strong, committed leader with a wealth of knowledge and experience who represents the best in this department," Mr. Scoppetta said. "During the past five years - in addition to running our day-to-day emergency operations - he has worked tirelessly to help rebuild a department severely impacted by the Sept. 11 attacks. Due to his efforts, our firefighters, E.M.T.'s and paramedics are better trained, equipped and prepared to respond more safely and effectively to every type of emergency in New York City. I am confident the department will prosper under his leadership."

Chief Cassano was appointed a New York City firefighter in November 1969, and he worked for several years at engine companies in Lower Manhattan. He was promoted to lieutenant in 1977 and worked at Ladder 113 in Brooklyn, where he also served after his promotion to captain in 1984. He continued to rise through the ranks as battalion chief (1987), deputy chief (1993), deputy assistant chief (1999) and assistant chief (2001), working in various assignments throughout the city, including responsibility as the on-duty citywide tour commander. He has been cited five times for bravery during his career. Congrats to Commissioner Cassano, a long time TSL member on his appointment. This is wonderful news on many counts for the citizens as his reputation as a Firefighter and Chief is so well known, but also as a good man (and fellow Grandfather!) who genuinely cares for his Firefighters, EMT's and Paramedics through his actions.

Take Care,

Billy G

The Secret List 12-21-09 / 1412 hours

AND:

Hey,

History has proven that it's important to be clear in what you tell someone. This is particularly important when communicating with your kid, your spouse (even though you are always right), your partner and definitely when it's a reporter. Even more careful when it is on tape. No, we aren't blaming reporters-because in most cases, your message should be VERY clear. And while some reporters do not report all they are told-most do and are certainly professional. In other words, generally, accuracy can be counted on related to local news stories. Generally.

What are we talking about?

Beginning next month all new townhouses built in Pennsylvania must have fire sprinkler systems. And while some homebuilders whine about the costs, a local newspaper reports that at least one fire chief has his doubts about fire sprinklers too. Why? Well, it seems that Richland Township's Ass't Fire Chief Jason Ober thinks the new requirements are important for townhouses, that are close together, but would be less effective for putting out fires in larger, single family homes. **WTF!?**

Richland Township has had a lot of growth-but no different than anywhere else , BUT those aren't the homes that have had the most fire problems, according to AC Ober. He thinks there are other safety features that should take precedent. "Smoke kills people in a fire, so why do we not have mandated smoke detectors? There are hard-wired smoke detector policies, but they are not monitored by anyone outside. Nor is a sprinkler system when it is activated, going to be monitored by anyone outside the residence," said Ober. **Huh?**

Assistant Chief Ober said they already run numerous calls about water problems from pipes that freeze is concerned "busted" sprinklers could cause even more work for them. He says the exposure to frozen water lines and the exposure to sprinkler heads accidentally going off when no one is home **will far outweigh the benefits of sprinkler systems in these newly constructed homes.** Didn't the National Association of Homebuilders try and use some of that same logic, the last time they lost on this issue? **How'd that work out?**

A close friend of ours (and a highly respected PA Fire Official) called Chief Ober yesterday and he is in fact in favor of fire sprinklers. Not sure if he was before or after the call but he is now. In this case, give the benefit of the doubt that the reporter did not report all that was said, there may have been some confusion on the message being delivered by A/C Ober and the interview may have been mis-edited and gave appearance that he was opposed to sprinklers. It's all possible. **We're just say'n.**

Some have found that when possible, it may be best to send a written statement for non-scene or non-emergency scene interviews as opposed to chatting with local reporters, but it all depends. It depends on past relations. it depends on expertise and of course, facts. And it depends on making sure the message is very clear, It appears, by reading the article (below) that it is-but then again, that's the article and may not have been exactly what was said. We have all been there.

After all, why do you think we now put The Secret List in writing? Years ago, we just called everyone (at dinnertime) on The Secret List and told them about the stuff we post. It was nuts. Very time consuming.

Communicating the correct message isn't always easy, but it's hard to take back words.

So ONCE again, because it's all about YOU, here are some training videos for better communication:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wfmvkO5x6Ng>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3oMDNc54eHw>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pcdg6l7FcqE>

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

Take Care-Be Careful.

BillyG

The Secret List 12-22-09 / 1450 Hours

AND:

Hey,

The Home Fire Sprinkler Coalition has been working with the CBS Early Show to prepare a fire safety/fire sprinkler segment that will air today Wednesday, December 23rd. This will be a live segment in a home in LaGrange Park, IL, with fire sprinklers protecting the living room. This story will also be posted on the CBS Early Show web site along with a link to HFSC's Web site. Please keep in mind that breaking news can affect the scheduling/airing of this story.

Take Care-Be Careful.

BillyG

The Secret List 12-23-09 / 0640 Hours

AND:

VA ASSISTANT CHIEF DIES IN THE LINE OF DUTY-MEDICAL EMERGENCY

While working a vehicle fire earlier this week, Dante (VA) VFD Assistant Chief Bobby Joe Mullins became ill. He was treated and transported to the emergency room. Chief Mullins was then transferred to a trauma center but passed away soon after arriving of sudden cardiac arrest. **88 Firefighter Line of Duty fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2009.** Our sincere condolences to the family of Chief Mullins and the Dante VFD.

NEW JERSEY FIRE & EMS CREWS RUN FOR COVER: ANOTHER DRUNK / DRUGGED DRIVER:

Basking Ridge Firefighters and EMS crews treating to an injured woman Saturday night had to dive out of the way of drunk driver who was fleeing from a State Police pursuit. Drunk Steven Munic, 43 of Hawley, Pa., was arrested Saturday and faces a slate of drug charges after he allegedly barreled his car through an accident and sent rescue teams from Basking Ridge Fire Co. and EMS running for cover.

Cops stopped Munic when they noticed he was driving down the highway without one of his rear tires. Munic fled from the troopers, who began to pursue him, but the officers pulled back when they were informed of the accident Basking Ridge crews were working. Munic's vehicle smashed through the scene around 1830 riding up the shoulder of the highway before colliding with the back of a parked Basking Ridge ambulance. Cops quickly descended on the scene and arrested Munic, The ambulance was unoccupied at the time. Munic is charged with eluding police, resisting arrest, obstruction, possession of narcotics and driving while intoxicated and is in the slammer.

STUPIDITY BECOMES A CRIME IN THE FIREHOUSE:

JUNIOR FF BOUND, GAGGED AND SHOT WITH AN AIRGUN IN CT FIREHOUSE "PRANK"

A 14-year-old junior member of the Quaker Hill (CT) Fire Company was bound to a backboard, gagged with duct tape and shot with an air gun in a "prank" gone stupid last September at the firehouse-according to reports. The victim's mother went to the cops to report that her son was assaulted by various members of the department as well as a nonmember. **He was assaulted in the firehouse and it involved Fire Officers, Firefighters and Junior Members. Junior members whose parents-and the law-assume they would be safely supervised in a firehouse. Not this time.**

Chiefs, Officers and Commissioners-read this one. **Really close. Could it happen....**

The victim said he was at the firehouse when he pulled a chair out from underneath Alexandra Tosi, who is not a member of the department but is the girlfriend of member Kyle Mordick. The victim said Tosi became angry and upset. Several hours later, Fire Captain Daniel O'Connor summoned the victim and Captain O'Connor, Lt. William Betters IV, Tosi, Mordick, a 17-year-old and two juveniles duct-taped and strapped the victim to a backboard. The victim told police that he was taped from his chest to his knees and said Tosi bound his hands with tape.

At one point during the attack, someone put tape over his mouth, which the victim was able to remove. Once he was fully fastened to the backboard, the victim was carried outside and propped up against the front of the fire station. Everyone was outside with the exception of Captain O'Connor. The victim said the 17-year-old junior firefighter shot him with the air gun in the leg. The teenager then handed the gun to the two other juveniles, who took turns shooting the victim. The victim said they shot him from about five feet away.

FF John Rwieczorek told the juveniles to stop, and the shooting ended. The victim said he was "really mad" and started to "flip out" as Lt. Betters and Mordick began to remove his bonds. Betters told the victim "he had better calm down before he hurt himself".

The victim said Lt. Betters tried to justify the attack as hazing, while Captain O'Connor referred to the incident as a "prank," the warrant said. Mordick told the victim he still had tape all over his sweatshirt, which Mordick put into the washing machine. Captain O'Connor told the victim he wanted the 17-year-old and the two juveniles out of the fire department "because the whole thing could backfire." Police observed multiple raised welts on the victim's right leg. It backfired. Seriously.

Cops say the two juveniles corroborated the victim's claim that he was shot with the air gun. When they interviewed Captain O'Connor he said he was "off-duty" when the incident occurred. He said he, along with Betters, Mordick and Tosi, conspired to "prank" the teenager. Captain O'Connor said he interceded when Tosi tried to put tape over the victim's mouth. He said he left the group for a while but later went outside when he learned other members had shot at the victim.

Captain O'Connor said the victim was upset and crying and "still had the look of fear on his face". The Captain said he tried to reassure the victim and ordered the air gun out of the firehouse. Soon after the incident, Chief Matthew Carson said several junior and senior members were suspended.

The 17-year-old was charged with second-degree assault, second-degree reckless endangerment and risk of injury to a minor. The teen was released on \$30,000 bond and was due in court this past Wednesday. Captain Mordick, Lt. Betters and Ms Tosi were all charged with conspiracy to commit second-degree unlawful restraint and risk of injury to a minor and were released on \$500 bond with court dates of Dec. 28.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL-THINK.

BillyG

The Secret List 12-23-09 / 0941 Hours

AND:

GEORGIA FIREFIGHTER DIES IN THE LINE OF DUTY-VEHICLE CRASH

It is with deep regret that we advise you that 1 of the 2 Firefighter/Paramedics with the Douglas County Fire Department that were injured late Saturday, has now died in the Line of Duty. Initial reports are that they were responding emergency and a civilian did not yield, failing to pull over. As the ambulance tried to pass, the car reportedly turned in front of the emergency vehicle, resulting in the crash. Our condolences to all affected in the tragic Line of Duty death of FF Paramedic Paul D. Holms, 37. More to follow.

VERMONT FIREFIGHTER KILLED WHILE RENDERING AID

While not a official Line of Duty death at this time, it is not unlike most Firefighters and EMT's to stop and help when they come across a crash-so we wanted to pass this on. Last night a Vermont Volunteer Firefighter was killed while helping at the scene of a car crash. There was heavy fog and the roads were icy when a car slid off the road into a ditch. **Shoreham (VT) Volunteer Firefighter Peter Coe**, 43, was driving with his family when he drove upon the crash, pulled over and got out of his car to help. Then, the driver of an oncoming pickup truck, who didn't see FF Coe's car, tried to avoid hitting it, went off the road, hitting and killing FF Coe, and also hit a power line, a tree and the original car. What FF Coe did was what most any Firefighter would have done-no matter what the "duty" status. Our condolences to all affected.

RESPONDING APPARATUS ROLLS OVER IN TENNESSEE:

This is one more of MANY responding apparatus incidents over the last few days-including another on Saturday in Douglas County (GA) where a FF/Medic was ejected after his responding ambulance rolled over 3 times while they attempted to pass a non-yielding car. Update to follow.

In the latest incident, this one in Tennessee yesterday, 4 Firefighters were injured when their engine rolled over. The apparatus rolled over when the White House Community Volunteer Firefighters hit a ditch on their way to another crash. The truck lodged into a muddy shoulder before rollover over. No word yet on their use of seatbelts but the Firefighters suffered cracked ribs, cuts, bruises and scrapes. Our best for a rapid recovery.

SLOW DOWN. BUCKLE UP. SERIOUSLY.

TERRORISTS, FIRE & STAFFING: (Understanding PWHS)

Relax-we won't go into another (major) TIRADE on the staffing issue. If you want the facts, take a look here:

<http://firefighterclosecalls.com/staffing.php> (and that's just up until mid-November-we'll have an update soon).

But the fact is, it takes rapid response from well trained and disciplined companies with plenty of staffing under strict command and control to get water on the fire and grab the people. This isn't new-it's just ignored because working fires don't happen everyday. Cutting staffing, companies, brownouts, etc is easy-because odds are-there will not be a fire. Odds are. Which means at some point there WILL be a fire-and then "oh my gosh" we have a problem. Or maybe not. Maybe it's forgotten about because the headlines the next morning read something about "some lunatic sets his leg on fire while wanting to blow up a plane because

once again the LACK of strict and disciplined airport security and related equipment has failed us". Something like that.

While we are in no way minimizing the upsetting and gravely concerning news about the Amsterdam to Detroit flight failed security issue, it doesn't take much of a stretch for us to connect the fact that if the "flaming clown" plan DID work - how the RESPONSE of "well trained and disciplined companies with plenty of staffing under command and control to get water on the fire and grab the people" would have mattered. IF something bad did happen-FD's would have had to respond. How 'bout that. But it's not just about planes being blown up.

HERE (below) are some links to some excellent "as seen by the neighbor" fire video and info from Dave Statter which dramatically demonstrates how FIRE can outrun us-for a variety of reasons. In this case, a multiple alarm fire in Prince George's County (Maryland) a few days ago where the first arriving engine had fire showing from second floor, third floor and the attic. It was a Garden style apartment with 3 floors in the front and 4 in the rear. The closest hydrant had a broken stem. 2 of the 4 engine companies had two personnel. The second truck company ran with 2. Murphy's law? Not at all. Totally predictable in that community and any other community as well. You pretty much know "right now" what your staffing will be no matter if you run a career, volunteer or combination FD. This is far from being an issue just in Prince George's County.

The most critical factor for a reported fire is the issue of multiple companies responding with disciplined Officers & Firefighters with good staffing (or more companies to overload the needed staffing) responding on the first alarm assignment to get the tasks done. And the 2nd Alarm-and more. We have to do what we can to get ahead of the fire-or it will outrun us with bad results.

While we all shake our heads with concern about the once again failed airline security issues, it hits close to all of us when we realize that "laxed" staffing and "laxed" airline security have a lot in common. This includes horrific end results that started with the "probably won't" happen syndrome (now officially known as PWHS). And it's the "PWHS" that nails us every time because while it "probably won't" - it eventually WILL somewhere, sometime, and often much sooner than expected with lots of tears to follow.

MARYLAND FIRE VIDEO AND INFO:

<http://statter911.com/2009/12/27/three-alarm-fire-in-oxon-hill-maryland-garden-apartment-building-burns-Saturday-evening/>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 12-28-09 / 1012 Hours

AND:

PA FIREFIGHTER DIES IN THE LINE OF DUTY-MEDICAL

As of this report, 90 Firefighter Line of Duty Deaths have been reported to the USFA in 2009; 87 from incidents that occurred in 2009 and 3 from previous year incidents.

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

It is with deep regret that we advise you of the Line of Duty Death of FF Clair Melvin Pierce, 68, a member and past chief of the Wellsboro Volunteer Fire & Ambulance Associations, Tiogo County, PA. He died at his home on Saturday, Dec. 26, 2009 after responding to a series of EMS and fire calls. He is survived by his wife, Barbara Joan Allen Pierce and numerous family members. As always, our most sincere condolences.

REPORT: TENN. LODD EMT HAD A SIGNIFICANT MEDICAL HISTORY, WAS DIAGNOSED WITH BOTH EPILEPSY & NARCOLEPSY AND MAY HAVE BEEN ALSO USING HIS CELLPHONE AT THE TIME OF THE CRASH THAT TOOK HIS, AND A CIVILIANS LIFE

This afternoon Metro Nashville Police released the final report on the ambulance crash that killed two people back in October. The driver of the ambulance, David Cline, who died in The Line of Duty, was to blame for the crash. After speaking to Cline's widow, crash investigators learned that Cline had been diagnosed with narcolepsy and epilepsy and was prescribed medications for both but may have not taken it, as prescribed.

David Cline had just finished a 24-hour shift at the Franklin Fire Department on Oct. 22 when he began a shift with the private for profit Rural Metro Ambulance Service. He was transporting a patient home when he rear ended the TDOT truck, which was parked on the shoulder of Interstate 65. Cline had a high level of amphetamines in his system, likely caused by the adderall he took for narcolepsy. But the toxicology report didn't show any traces of the drug he took for epilepsy in his system.

The report also shows that Cline had a similar crash in 1999, where he swerved off the road after having a seizure. His license was suspended after that crash and reinstated in 2000. Franklin FD personnel also told investigators that Cline had a seizure a few years ago. A check of phone records also revealed Cline was sending or receiving text messages at the time of the crash. Investigators believe given Cline's medical history that some type of medical condition is to blame for the tragic wreck. Both Cline and the elderly patient in the back of the ambulance were killed in the crash. Another paramedic was hurt, but he has recovered.

FATAL EMS CRASH TODAY IN PA (Non-Emergency Incident)

A civilian lost her life when her minivan and an ambulance collided in Carbon County this morning. The 2 vehicles crashed in an intersection shortly after 8:00. The 62-year-old driver of the minivan, Linda Huynh died at the scene. The driver of the ambulance, Eugene Crostley, 36, was taken to the hospital and later released. The ambulance was heading west approaching the Normal Square traffic light. The minivan was traveling north and a t-bone type collision occurred between the ambulance and the van. They say the ambulance was not on an emergency call at the time of the crash.

FACEBOOK Users: Firefighter Close Calls on Facebook also posts the most recent Secret List.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL,

BillyG

The Secret List 12-28-09 / 2003 Hours

AND

**UPDATE: FF's IDENTIFIED & POSSIBLE CAUSE OF EXPLOSION
WISCONSIN FIREFIGHTER DIES IN THE LINE OF DUTY-DUMPSTER FIRE/EXPLOSION**

It is with deep regret that we pass on the name of **Firefighter Steve Koeser**, 33 of the St. Anna (New Holstein,WI) who was the Firefighter killed in the Line of Duty last night when that burning dumpster exploded. FF Koeser had 15 years of service as a Firefighter. It should be noted that 2 of Firefighter Koesers brothers and other family members work at the facility, where the fire occurred.

As you know, Firefighter Koeser died from injuries sustained from that large explosion in the parking lot of a manufacturing plant. Initial reports indicate that the plant was closed and no employees were at the scene when the fire was reported in a dumpster by police patrolling the area. The St. Anna Fire Department responded to the scene and a short time later an explosion took place killing Firefighter Koeser.

POSSIBLE CAUSE:

St. Anna Firefighters arrived and were working to put out the fire in the dumpster along with a large drum when the explosion occurred. Fire Investigators think that metal byproducts in waste bins, aluminum chips and impurities from furnaces, may have reacted to the water being used by the Firefighters and sparked the explosion. In addition to 33-year-old FF Steven Koeser losing his life, 8 other Firefighters were hurt, including 28-year-old FF Brad Woelfel, who remains hospitalized in fair condition.

ST ANNA FD WEBSITE: <http://www.stannafiredept.com/>

93 Firefighters killed in the Line of Duty have been reported to USFA in 2009; 90 from incidents that occurred in 2009 and three from previous year incidents.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 12-30-09 / 1530 Hours

AND

Hey,

The North Carolina LODD yesterday was a **24 year-old** career Belmont Firefighter who collapsed and died in the Line of Duty. **Firefighter Richard Adam Miller** was participating in physical fitness training and had been working out on a treadmill when he collapsed. FF Miller has been a career firefighter with Belmont (Gaston County) since August, 2009 and was also a Lieutenant with the Millers Creek Volunteer Fire Department in Wilkes County, Fire Station 24. The investigation into the cause of Miller's death continues. FF Miller is survived by his mother, father and one brother. He was engaged to be married but has no children.

NOTE: This is the 2nd Line of Duty Death to occur this year for the Millers Creek Fire Department. William Parsons, 58, died February 1, 2009 after collapsing while operating fire apparatus during an emergency. Thanks to our friends at FireNews.net for the updates.

=UPDATE: WISCONSIN FIREFIGHTER KILLED WHEN DUMPSTER EXPLODES (PHOTOS)

It was a 33-year-old St. Anna (Wisconsin) Firefighter in Calumet County who was killed last night when that dumpster exploded at a foundry. Another firefighter who was airlifted is now reported in serious condition and 3 other Firefighters were hurt.

NOTE: We have posted photos of the scene and the dumpster on our home page.

=RESPONDING TO A DUMPSTER FIRE?

TREAT IS AS IF IT IS A BOMB (LOOK AT THE PHOTOS OF WHAT USED TO BE A DUMPSTER)

While it is certainly too early for the exact details on what happened last night, I know that most of us, when we heard about it shook with sadness as dumpster's are always the ultimate "unknown". We absolutely NEVER know what is in a dumpster and in this case, St Anna Firefighters responded, as any of our FD's would have, and were met with a horrific blast (as seen by the photos on our home page and the tragic death of a Firefighter). **It easily could have been ANY of us. Easily.**

Because dumpster fires are so common, it would be easy for any of us to approach and hit the fire with a hand line-as if nothing will go wrong. It's worked that way thousands of times with no problem.

We get comfortable.

Full PPE? No Exposed Skin? SCBA? Water? Booster? 1-3/4"? Toss some Foam? Hit it with a Deck Gun? Let it burn? Exposures? Other Hazards? Could it explode? How Do You Know? What's in there? Approach? Access? What's in that dumpster that's worth any risk to Your FF's?

But we DO get comfortable because 99% of the time nothing does go wrong.

BUT consider the fact that since we never have any idea WHAT is in any dumpster at any time-we must operate as if the WORST possible conditions exist-with the worst possible results. **EXPECT something to go wrong on any run-and in this case DUMPSTER FIRES.**

There is NOTHING to be saved at a dumpster fire-and that's probably the best way to act when we arrive. It's literally a pile of sh!t burning. Stuff no want wants. No value.

BREATHE non of that crap and attempt to position ourselves (if we even have to get close) with the LEAST possible exposure to what is burning-and what MAY go wrong.

HERE are some links with drills and related info for you about DUMPSTER fires:

<http://www.firefighterclosecalls.com/drills/FCC%20Vol%203-35%20Dumpster%20Fires.pdf> (Drill)

<http://firefighterclosecalls.com/weeklydrills.php> (Multiple Drills)

<http://www.iaff.org/et/JobAid/DrillsAndExercises/drills.htm> (Drill-scenario)

<http://tinyurl.com/yaetvj2> (FF Close Calls related to Dumpster Fires)

<http://tinyurl.com/yess5ux> (FF Near Miss Reports related to Dumpster Fires)

<http://www.withthecommand.com/2003-Jan/OH-JB-dumpster.html> (Article)

<http://www.firehouse.com/forums/showthread.php?t=37379> (Forum)

Wisconsin Local News Website: Details From The Scene: <http://tinyurl.com/ykw3w5d>

=INDIANA APPARATUS ROLLS OVER WHILE RESPONDING ON A FIRE CALL:

A fire apparatus on its way to a flue fire rolled over several times in southwestern Lawrence County Tuesday, totaling the vehicle. 2 Williams Firefighters were hurt and we are awaiting an update as to their status.

=BOSTON FIREFIGHTER HURT-FALL AT FIRE (Photo on our home page)

A Boston Firefighter was seriously injured this morning while operating at a two-alarm fire in after he fell face first from the third to the second floor at a pair of townhouses under construction. The firefighter was 1 of 2 injured at the 0513 Hours fire. He literally fell face first and sustained facial injuries and may have broken ribs. The other firefighter hurt his back during the operation. The fire started on the second floor of the construction site where firefighters believe builders are constructing two townhouses.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL. **DISCUSS DUMPSTER FIRES WITH YOUR CREW.**

BillyG

The Secret List 12-30-09 / 1357 hours

AND

Hey,

Seems January 1 arrives faster each year as you (we) get older. Our message for 2010 is nothing that will particularly make you feel like you are basking in some moment of zen or anything like that. Actually, all of it comes from recent discussions or interaction with friends.

One friend of ours, an East Coast Firefighter, who LOVES being a Firefighter, recently had a heart attack-or as he called it, a "**stupid**" heart attack. He hadn't had a physical in ages, his bunker gear was special ordered due to his jumbo size and the back seat of his car looked like a fast food wrapper recycling center.

Thankfully, he survived and is doing really well. He was one of the fortunate ones. But he LOVED being a FF.

Simply put, if you LOVE being a Firefighter so much-just THINK HARD about what you can do-so you can keep BEING a Firefighter as long as possible. From regular training to predictable staffing to size up to seat belts to command/ control to physicals/cancer screening to driving sanely to wearing your PPE with no exposed skin and getting water on the fire - - this stuff ain't brain surgery. Look at the pictures in your wallet of those who love and count on you.

Taking risks at fires?

Absolutely-to think we don't or don't have to would be ridiculous. It's the stupid and predictably unnecessary risks and losses, ones that can often be avoided, that are the focus. Serious injuries, or lives of Firefighters lost? Absolutely-to think that all of our LODD's are all avoidable and preventable is inaccurate, because as tragic as it may be-sometimes, on those rare occasions, we DO have to risk our lives for those who are trapped - there are no other options for the public but us. But while all Firefighters who die in the Line of Duty lead

HEROIC lives, by the very nature of them being Firefighters, not all Line of Duty Deaths themselves are heroic.

Give a thought, as we kick off 2010, about the differences of what may be necessary and what may not be.

Some examples might be:

-No physicals=stupid heart attack.

-No seat belt=stupid ejection.

-No training=stupid Firefighter.

-No PPE use=stupid burns.

That's all. Simple stuff that can go a long way in minimizing Firefighter Line of Duty injuries and deaths. Would any of us ever **intentionally** hurt our family? Stupid question.

==BUTTONS:

I had a discussion recently with another very close friend-one I work with and one who is very much in tune with local government global workings. He talked about how it appears, unfortunately, that the fire service is in the process of having to reinvent ourselves because of the economy. In some cases, it's being done for us, like it or not. For any of us to think that city managers and mayors **aren't already** in the process of thinking how they can save even **more** money, and are planning it without asking us, **is very naive**. They are planning our futures and will tell us what the plan is when they are done. That friend of mine recently wrote a piece, that will soon be published, about the fact that the "reset" **button** on what a FD looks like now-and what it will look like in the near future, is about to be pushed. - **And not by us.**

With all the budget cuts and brownouts going on, one of our primary concerns is that many city managers and mayors will make their cuts and take the lead on re-inventing FDs while thinking their communities won't actually suffer very much. Remember-as Firefighters we are often emotion driven based upon street experience, while those who control our funds are definitely not. They know, in their minds, in most cases, the "emergency" will be handled-and, it will. But specifically how, by whom and the quality and timing of that service delivery is key to the equation-one that's often blown off by those directing the changes. When we fail to communicate - or they fail to listen - as to WHY the cuts will absolutely and directly negatively impact lives, negative change with predictable results are inevitable.

When a community's FD suffers service related cuts, it absolutely will have an impact on the level of service we can provide. That's not an emotional statement. It is a calculable and proven fact. We cannot do it all-no matter how badly and emotionally we may want to. We cannot do the job of 25 Firefighters on a fire-when we only have 10 to work with. When budgets are threatened, we must make it honestly and numerically clear how those cuts will impact the taxpayers and preferably, do that well before the slaying starts as to possible avert the cuts. However, if the cuts are made, we then have to re-write our playbooks directing (and re-training) on how we will be forced to operate.

The public has images from kids books and movies of what they think their FD is and what their FD can do-and in many cases, it's just a storybook fantasy. More to follow.

==BALLS:

Given these tough times, it is important for us not to take our eye off the ball (s). The fact is that there **will** be fires and we will respond the best we can. People only call us when nothing else has worked-we ARE their last resort. The balance between what we respond with, the leadership and training of who responds, the timing of us responding vs the cuts that have been made, is really the bottom line.

When you look at what local government was really formed for, when we fail to be able to get there quick enough with needed FF's to get water on the fire, grab that kid or resuscitate that grandpa, what else really matters in relation to local governments' mission-or their need to even exist?

Never "dropping the ball" and "keeping our eye on the ball" is about focus, responsibility and specifically, what WE individually, are expected to do. Self and organizational training and discipline. Knowing what we are EACH expected to do when the bell rings. What is YOUR job on the engine company? What are YOU expected to do, when riding the truck, the rescue or the buggy? Personal responsibility, so when "the ball" gets passed-we have a clue as to how to "hold on" and what to do.

We can all probably do better in being focused on knowing OUR job on the scene. To be in a position where others on the scene can count on YOU to be doing what YOU are expected to do. To be an EXPERT on what your role is when the tones go off. To keep an eye on the ball and do what the game plan (SOP's, SOG's Dept Orders etc) calls for-and what the coach (command) or quarterback (your company officer) orders you to do. Doing what is expected-and doing what we are told.

Sometimes we need more focus (us included) on what we are expected to do while operating-as opposed to worrying about what "someone else" does, did or didn't do. Personal and professional responsibility as a part of the overall operation--before and during the run--is as critical now, as it's ever been.

==FORGETTING:

A friend from IAFF's Headquarters wrote us with these comments and we wanted to share them with you. He wrote about the fact that FIREFIGHTERS are often the ones to genuinely NEVER FORGET. But unfortunately, because we are often so worried about helping others, we often fail to worry about ourselves, our families and the things we **can** control resulting in positive outcomes.

We forget about ourselves.

So here are a few items that we should NEVER forget:

1. Get an annual medical physical-and cancer screenings, even if you have to pay for it yourself.
2. Use seat belts at home and at work.
3. Wear and use ALL of your PPE.
4. Have a living will and health care power-of-attorney.
5. Have an up-to-date will and current beneficiaries.

It all ties in to us, as Rick Lasky says, loving the job and loving and taking care of our families-or not. While there are many other "never forget" items that could be listed above, it

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really ties to us loving being Firefighters-or not. And if we love doing this so much, why wouldn't we want to do it as long as possible? In so many cases, we can control that.

God Bless you, your family, your members and our Military troops with the absolute best wishes for a Happy, Healthy and Peaceful 2010, from all of us at FireFighterCloseCalls.com and EMSCloseCalls.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

Billy, Gordon, Brian, Forest, Chris, Rudy, Iggy, Barry and the crew at FireCompanies.com.

The Secret List 1-1-10 / 2141 Hours

AND:

Hey,

2 Modesto (CA) Firefighters were seriously injured with burns late last night while operating at a single story house fire, when the roof they were operating on, collapsed. As of 0315 hours 1 Firefighter was at Doctors Medical Center being treated for burns. The other, who suffered "significant burns", was transported by a critical care ambulance to UC Medical Center in Davis. A helicopter to transport the Firefighter couldn't fly because of weather conditions, according to MFD staff.

The positive news is that both Firefighters were conscious and talking to fire personnel.

There was no electricity in the home, and that the occupant was using a gasoline generator for power. The generator ran out of gas, and while attempting to refill it, and using a candle for light, the occupant dropped the candle, causing the fire. When fire companies arrived on the scene, they began their operations, and attacked the fire from the inside. The fire had started in the garage, and while operating, 2 Firefighters went to the roof to vertically ventilate the house. Shortly after, there was a catastrophic failure of the roof and the 2 Firefighters fell through. A mayday was reported and the intervention crew had both members out within a couple of minutes. A spokes person from the MFD stated that said the intensity of the heat caused the roof to collapse significantly sooner than usual, adding that he was told by crew member that he had never seen a roof fail in that short amount of time. **BELOW is a link to more information, photos and video of the fire.**

We will post additional updates as the are available.

Take care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 1-2-10 / 0730 Hours

PHOTOS & VIDEO:

http://www.modbee.com/1618/story/992501.html?storylink=omni_popular

AND:

Hey,

Today Firefighters gathered in St. Anna (WI) to pay final respects to Fallen FF **Steven "Peanut" Koeser**. As you know, a dumpster fire and explosion killed FF Koeser, 33, and injured 8 other FF's on Dec. 29. While the facts related to his tragic death have not yet been completely determined, it's another wake up call and reminder for any of us to use caution and full protection when operating. We never know WHAT is in that dumpster. Or in that car.

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Or in that garage. What happened to FF Koeser could have absolutely happened to any of us.

And Could Happen Here.

Let's just start off for those who FIGHT to help FIREFIGHTERS receive cancer presumption protection, this is just the kind of example that those who FIGHT us, love to use **against** us. Thanks to Dave at **Statter 911** for passing this "nasty" video along as another example/opportunity to learn:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DmTcWsYcSL0&feature=player_embedded as well as:
<http://tinyurl.com/yhmbfox>

While some think "it's no big deal" - that is the wrong answer. It definitely is a "big deal" - and has for other FF's. It could have been **nasty** as no one knows what might have blown up or what crap they are breathing. It's 2010-we don't have to breathe that nasty crap-no need to breathe that crap. For additional info go **HERE:** <http://tinyurl.com/yjhqbsk> and **HERE:** <http://tinyurl.com/yl6s55o>

==UPDATE: MODESTO FIREFIGHTERS BURNED: Two firefighters working on the roof of that house fire fell into the fire and were rescued by other FF's. Fire Engineer James Adams suffered burns to 40 percent of his body and is being treated at UC Davis Medical Center in Sacramento. Firefighter Jason Clevenger, who suffered burns to 10 percent of his body, was treated at Doctors Medical Center in Modesto. Their injuries are reported to not be life threatening.

==JUNIOR FIREFIGHTERS-WHAT'S YOUR POLICY & RESPONSIBILITY?

Dave Statter 911 also has a video and posting related to a 16 year old Fire Explorer who was operating-and then was transported-from a working fire: <http://tinyurl.com/ydu9tdr>

==SO, YOU GET DISPATCHED TO "CHECK SOMEONE SLEEPING OR PASSED OUT IN A CAR"

.....and you arrive and find a clueless driver passed out in his car while a batch of methamphetamine was cooking away in the back seat:

<http://firefighterclosecalls.com/fullstory.php?99248> --ya never know.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 1-2-10 / 2253 Hours

AND:

Hey,

In **Pine Bluff (Arkansas)** a collapse at a fire early this morning has left 1 Firefighter in critical condition with numerous traumatic injuries. Companies were operating at the commercial building fire (reported to be an office supply business) when there was some type of collapse, and a beam struck the Firefighter. Fortunately no other Firefighters were injured.

More details to follow.

In Chicago, a Firefighter was seriously burned in a working dwelling fire earlier this morning. The fire started in the basement. Companies are still operating at the scene. More details to follow on that as well.

And yesterday in **Lancaster (Ohio)** one Firefighter collapsed at the scene of a working dwelling fire. The Firefighter was taken to Fairfield Medical Center and then transferred to The Ohio State University Medical Center with life threatening conditions.

We'll post updated details on all.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL,

BillyG

The Secret List 1-3-09 / 1305 Hours

AND:

KANSAS FIRE CAPTAIN DIES IN THE LINE OF DUTY

It is with deep regret that we advise you of the Line of Duty Death of Fire Captain Urban A. Eck of the Wichita, Kansas FD. Captain Eck, who was a 27 year veteran of the Wichita (Kansas) FD was operating at the scene of a 2nd alarm working fire incident approximately one week ago.

When Captain Eck reported to the Rehab Sector his vital signs were irregular and did not return to normal. He subsequently worked one more shift, in which he responded to several incidents before going to a doctor after reporting that he still did not feel well. The doctor hospitalized him.

Captain Eck later died after surgery from complications associated with an undisclosed cardiac problem. Our sincere condolences to all affected. Additional details will be available HERE: <http://www.ksffa.com/>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL,

BillyG

The Secret List 1-3-09 1900 Hours

AND:

NY STATE EMT DIES IN THE LINE OF DUTY

An EMT who was also a Firefighter died in the Line of Duty yesterday in NY State. **EMT Paul Bazinet** with Empire Ambulance was completing a transport when he asked his partner to take him to the hospital as he felt winded. While being driven Paul went unresponsive. His partner started treatment while calling for assistance. Paul was transported to Saratoga Hospital where he passed away. He leaves his wife Devon, parents and a brother and sister behind. Paul has a history of dedicated service to several area FD's and emergency services departments.

PINE BLUFF (ARK) FIRE LIEUTENANT UPDATE FOLLOWING STRUCTURE/BEAM COLLAPSE:

We had a chance to speak with Pine Bluff Fire Chief Smith this morning and he reports that **Lt. David Curlin** is in stable but serious condition after being injured at that fire early Sunday morning. Lt David Curlin and others were operating at the commercial building fire early Sunday morning when the wall of the second story collapsed, pinning Lt Curlin under a metal
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beam. It should be noted that the crew had exited the building and were on the sidewalk when the collapse occurred. Lt. Curlin is in serious condition with a broken leg and arm and several internal injuries and is scheduled for surgery today. Updates will follow.

MODESTO (CA) FIREFIGHTERS UPDATE-3rd Degree Burns To Nearly 50% Of His Body.

The Modesto Firefighter who fell through the roof of a burning single family dwelling fire late Friday is in a medically induced coma and will probably be in the hospital for more than a month. FF Jim Adams, a 24-year veteran of the Modesto Fire Department suffered much more serious burns than originally thought. The other firefighter injured in the blaze, Jason Clevenger, is expected to be released in a few days but will require extensive treatment.

FF Clevenger, 32, was burned over 10 percent of his body. Doctors at first thought Adams, 46, had burns on about 30 percent of his body. **Now they say Adams suffered third-degree burns on close to 50 percent of his body, including both hands.** Adams is on a ventilator in a medically induced coma. He is a married father of two adult sons. The incident happened 6 minutes after Firefighters arrived and found a single-family home with heavy smoke showing. Clevenger and Adams climbed a ladder to the garage roof do vertical ventilation. Reports are that Adams went up the ladder first. He tapped the roof with a hook, and once on top of the garage, Clevenger prepared to use his chain saw to cut into the roof, but smoke stalled the saw. As Clevenger started the chain saw again, he felt his feet sink into the roof, as if he were standing on a mattress and "Before he could say, 'Jim, we need to get off the roof,' it failed," a spokesman said.

Both men fell into the burning garage, where the fire had started when that woman living at the house dropped a candle next to a gasoline powered generator. When the roof collapsed the structure became well involved due to the influx or air. Clevenger got to his feet and used an ax from his belt to clear a path to where he thought the door was. Adams had to be pulled out by the RIT company and had him out in less than two minutes. Info from the ModBee & the MFD.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL,
BillyG
The Secret List 1-5-09 / 0936 Hours

AND:

Hey,
A Lynn firefighter was critically injured while operating at a working house fire this morning. The fire in a single family 2 story wood dwelling came in around 1000 hours, required several additional alarms. We will have updates soon.

BillyG
The Secret List 1-5-09 1035 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:

Tuesday night the Tucson (AZ) City Council will make a couple crucial decisions about possible city-wide budget cuts. On top of losing 100 jobs, Tucson Fire may be forced to shut down three fire stations, eliminate fire engines and paramedic teams, depending on the council's decision:

<http://www.kvoa.com/news/tucson-parks-fire-police-face-steep-cuts/>

The relatively high pay for Clark County's (NV) firefighters, boosted by millions in overtime, led to a discussion during Friday's meeting of the Committee on Community Priorities of "brownouts" for county fire stations that aren't very busy:

<http://www.lasvegassun.com/news/2009/dec/13/brownouts-could-cut-fire-union-overtime/>

After 40 hours of hearings to sort through Clark County's budget woes, the key issue that emerged for most of the 15 carefully chosen community representatives was the high cost of county employees, particularly firefighters. "The only way to truly cut costs in a general fund of \$1.5 billion when the payroll (wages and benefits) is over \$1.2 billion is to cut staff, hours, salaries and/or benefits," the Committee on Community Priorities' preliminary report says, adding: "The rise in employee compensation is unsustainable." Regarding firefighters, the committee noted that "\$180,000 compensation (wages plus benefits) for the average (Fire Department) employee is outrageous, even outside this economic downturn." But that dollar figure has now been eclipsed. County officials said Tuesday that the average salary and benefits package for firefighter union employees was \$199,678 for the fiscal year that ended in July. The average salary alone was \$128,026. Given those figures, it's easy to understand why the fire department gets the most mentions in the committee's 177 recommendations for internal changes in county government, and 29 suggestions to address county-state issues:

<http://www.lasvegassun.com/news/2009/dec/30/cost-cutting-ideas-center-salaries/>

Maricopa (AZ) fire, police departments investigate charging service fees for responses:

http://www.trivalleycentral.com/articles/2009/12/12/maricopa_monitor/top_stories/doc4b2153fd4eaa7878916652.txt

The city of Cleveland (OH) sent layoff notices today to more than 100 safety forces workers whose unions have not yet accepted the mayor's proposed pay cuts. Safety

Director Martin Flask said he signed notices for 67 police patrol officers, 38 firefighters and six emergency medical technicians. The notices, effective Jan. 11, would be rescinded if the unions agree to a pay cut of about 4 percent:

http://blog.cleveland.com/metro/2009/12/cleveland_sends_layoff_notices.html

Laying off as many as 120 firefighters and closing some of the city's 31 active stations will be among the projected budget cuts that will be presented to the mayor, Tulsa (OK) Fire Chief Allen LaCroix said Thursday. City department heads must turn in their 2.2 percent and 4.4 percent reduction scenarios to Mayor Dewey Bartlett by the end of Friday as he works to cut either \$5 million or \$10 million from the budget. How deeply the mayor will cut after the start of the new year depends on the city's sales-tax revenue performance during the holidays. The Fire Department's 2.2 percent scenario would mean 49 firefighters laid off, while the 4.4 percent budget reduction would hit 120, LaCroix said:

http://www.tulsaworld.com/news/article.aspx?subjectid=334&articleid=20091218_11_A1_Laying35989

The town of North Providence (RI) is considering setting up a for-profit ambulance company that could earn as much as \$260,000 per year shuttling patients between local homes, hospitals and nursing facilities, according to Mayor Charles A. Lombardi. The town has a spare fire rescue vehicle for the enterprise, Lombardi said, and a non-emergency ambulance service would square nicely with the existing emergency fire rescue service: http://www.projo.com/ri/northprovidence/content/NP_AMBULANCE_12-28-09_Q9GTGD4_v71.32a7523.html

A fight is brewing at San Francisco (CA) City Hall over a very controversial plan for balancing the budget. One supervisor is calling for major cuts in the police and fire departments to save money. According to the San Francisco Examiner, Supervisor Chris Daly wants to cut hundreds of police and firefighter positions to deal with the city's half billion dollar budget deficit. The plan Daly is proposing would save about \$20 million this fiscal year which ends June 30th:

http://abclocal.go.com/kgo/story?section=news/local/san_francisco&id=7173818

Stockton's (CA) firefighters now have a tool that will save lives in fires, building collapses, or any disaster -- and on the back of the truck is a Food 4 Less logo. A federal grant paid \$400,000 to purchase the truck, but the city that's been hard-hit by budget woes was still short of funds until Food 4 Less covered the gap. "Unfortunately, we were short of funds -- \$200,000 and change. Mr. Quinn stepped up, answered the call and made that happen," Stockton firefighter Matt Baker said:

<http://www.firehouse.com/topics/top-headlines/calif-fire-truck-gets-sponsorship>

A funding shortage could cost the town of Frankton (IN) its fire department. The Frankton Volunteer Fire Department requested an \$8,000 increase for its 2010 budget, bringing the department's funding to \$30,000 a year, but the town council offered a \$1,000 increase instead. Fire Chief Rob Amick and the department's 25 firefighters turned down the contract Monday night, and threatened to pull out of the town if their request for more money is not met:

<http://www.firehouse.com/topics/news/ind-dept-faces-closure-budget-cuts>

To avoid laying off up to 180 city employees in fiscal 2010-11, the Reno (NV) City Council agreed Tuesday to have its staff start working with city unions to find concessions to keep nearly 1,400 city workers employed:

<http://www.rgj.com/article/20091216/NEWS/912160422/1036/FALLON03/City-union-concessions-sought>

By a 3-2 vote, the Pine-Strawberry (AZ) Fire Board has reversed its original decision to create three new battalion chief positions:

http://www.paysonroundup.com/news/2009/dec/18/fire_board_reverses_decision_new_battalion_chiefs/

Phoenix (AZ) must consider eliminating services designed to prevent child pool deaths, high-rise hotel fires and other tragedies in an effort to avoid laying off firefighters and paramedics. According to department leaders, if the fire department is forced to slash 15 percent of its budget, fire-prevention and public-education programs could be the first to go. The 15 percent - more than \$34 million of the department's operating budget - equates to about one-third of the city's firefighting fleet:

<http://www.abc15.com/content/news/phoenixmetro/central/story/How-fire-department-budget-cuts-could-increase/-ku0SJJ-gEyyrqpq3TO5g.csp>

Wages frozen for Merced (CA) city fire, police - All sides in agreement as the City Council ratifies union contracts in belt-tightening times:

<http://www.mercedsunstar.com/167/story/1241702.html>

Four "brownouts" at Lexington (KY) fire stations around the city are planned on Christmas Day, and more will occur in coming months as the fire department looks for ways to cut as much as \$2.7 million from its budget. Fire Chief Robert Hendricks said that brownouts -- the temporary closings of fire stations -- will help cut his department's costs and minimize the need to cut staff, although layoffs remain likely:

<http://www.firehouse.com/topics/top-headlines/4-ky-stations-go-dark-christmas>

Las Vegas (NV) firefighters union has taken a hard stance against the city's budget cuts, alleging that reductions will hurt emergency responses along with fire insurance rating for homes and businesses. City officials, meanwhile, said the union is engaging in irresponsible "scare tactics" at a time when the city is facing economic difficulties:

<http://www.lvrj.com/news/City-firefighters-launch-campaign-against-cutbacks-80240962.html>

After months of negotiations over concessions with Ocean Shores (WA) city employees in an attempt to close a \$1.3 million shortfall to the city's general fund, the Ocean Shores Professional Fire Fighter's Union has agreed to make concessions that will be worth \$80,000 to the city, Mayor Dean Bunkers said:

http://www.thedailyworld.com/articles/2009/12/29/local_news/doc4b3a527e4f739993561700.txt

A request by Visalia's (CA) fire chief to suspend mandatory furloughs for firefighters has been granted after a pair of recent blazes left the city critically short of fire crews. Since mid-November, the city has operated with just five of its six engine companies staffed during the night shift because firefighters were off for mandatory furloughs, Fire Chief Mark Nelson said:

<http://www.visaliatimesdelta.com/article/20091229/NEWS01/912290306/City+of+Visalia+halts+firefighter+furloughs+halts>

After 28 years with Vallejo (CA), more than two of them as fire chief, Russ Sherman said Wednesday he is retiring from the department today to avoid management pay cuts effective January 1, 2010: http://www.timesheraldonline.com/ci_14099855

Public Relations Nightmare Items:

Two white career firefighters in Loudoun County, Virginia are suspended with pay after a noose was found in the car of a black firefighter. Loudoun County Department of Fire, Rescue and Emergency Management Chief Joseph Pozzo, while not providing details, confirms an investigation is ongoing:

<http://www.wusa9.com/news/local/story.aspx?storyid=94942&catid=188>

The San Bernardino (CA) County Sheriff's Department is investigating a Newberry Springs firefighter accused of arson:

<http://www.desertdispatch.com/news/springs-7509-newberry-arson.html>

Atlanta (GA) showed a city councilwoman, and member of the public safety committee, the controversial surveillance tape taken inside the Moreland Package Store. The tape shows 21-year-old Martez McKibben trying to fight off two armed robbers, but the controversy is over what happened later in the tape. "I can't tell anything from the surveillance to know whether they did their job or not," said Councilwoman Anne Fauver. The video shows one Atlanta Fire-Rescue firefighter and two paramedics approach the area where McKibben was laying. They take a look, then walk away. No one went behind the counter, but Fauver said that doesn't mean they didn't do their job: <http://www.cbsatlanta.com/news/21966028/detail.html>

Two recent cases in Maine raise questions about firefighters and arson:

<http://www.bangordailynews.com/detail/132679.html>

A radio station stunt in Tampa (FL) injures a firefighter:

http://www.abcactionnews.com/mostpopular/story/Radio-stunt-accident-injures-firefighter/A2EBgol_qkuYV7BwzHRYmA.csp

Authorities have launched a criminal investigation into the case of the former Anderson (CA) Fire Protection District chief who resigned earlier this year amid an investigation into possible misconduct:

<http://www.redding.com/news/2009/dec/14/judge-orders-release-anderson-fire-district-invest/>

A Washington D.C. deputy fire chief remains an employee of the District despite working as a county fire chief in Florida as part of an arrangement that will allow him to receive retirement benefits for five years that he otherwise would not be entitled to collect:

<http://www.firerescue1.com/fire-department-management/articles/681541-Deputy-fire-chief-takes-Fla-job-while-keeping-DC-pension/>

A detailed police report from a recent investigation of a fatal Boston (MA) firetruck crash concludes that a Fire Department contractor installed the wrong parts on the ladder truck's brakes several months before the crash and that firefighters who were not licensed mechanics repeatedly adjusted the brakes in violation of national safety guidelines:

http://www.boston.com/news/local/massachusetts/articles/2009/12/16/firetruck_parts_not_correct_police_say/

If Mylan Denerstein becomes the FDNY's new commissioner, the first blazes she'll have to put out will likely involve sexism and racism -- over her own appointment. The 42-year-old former federal prosecutor is on the short list to be named the city's next fire commissioner -- leading to the possibility she would be the first woman and one of the first African-Americans to hold the job. Some department insiders worried that there may be old-boy elements who would have trouble accepting a woman in charge of the FDNY, where only 33 out of 11,300 firefighters are female:

http://www.nypost.com/p/news/local/firestorm_over_lady_commiss_dVia9j3m6qNjwJA6eSGEpJ

Seven Waterford (CT) firefighters are in hot water after a practical joke that got out of hand. Police said last September, the young firefighters taped a member of the Quaker Hill Fire Department to a board, then began shooting him with air gun beads. Those arrested were 21-year-old Kyle Mordick, of Quaker Hill; 22-year-old Alexandra Tosi, of East Haddam; 28-year-old William H. Betters IV, of Uncasville; 54-year-old Daniel O'Connor, of Quaker Hill. All were charged with conspiracy to commit unlawful restraint and risk of injury to a minor:

<http://www.firehouse.com/topics/careers/conn-ffs-hot-water-over-prank>

Court records said a woman suspected of using a prepaid mobile phone to make up to 48 false calls for help to 911 was a volunteer firefighter in Colorado:

<http://www.firehouse.com/topics/careers/female-colo-ff-made-48-fake-911-calls>

Two FDNY EMTs have been suspended without pay after allegations that they ignored a dying patient while eating their breakfast:

http://ny1.com/5-manhattan-news-content/news_beats/law_enforcement/110776/two-emts-suspended-after-they-allegedly-ignore-dying-woman/

A neighbor of three men who died in a fire in Queens (NY) last month claims that a dispatching typo delayed the FDNY by 15 minutes and that the department should pay for its mistake:

<http://www.firehouse.com/topics/top-headlines/queens-man-says-fdny-negligent-response-fatal-fire>

Almost one year after a Boston (MA) firetruck found to have faulty brakes crashed, killing a lieutenant, the Boston firefighters union has agreed to allow the city to hire licensed mechanics to maintain firetrucks instead of unlicensed firefighters:

http://www.boston.com/news/local/massachusetts/articles/2009/12/26/boston_firefighters_ok_changes_in_firetruck_maintenance/

The push to recall the controversial head of L.A.'s firefighter union has fizzled, according to the man who was the target of the campaign over the last three months. Pat McOsker, president of United Firefighters of Los Angeles City Local 112, said the union's election committee unanimously invalidated the recall drive after discovering that signature gatherers had, in violation of the rules, failed to attach the reasons for the recall to their petitions. McOsker has been criticized for using aggressive tactics to lobby against reductions in firefighter and paramedic staffing, including the publication of a mailer featuring images of last year's deadly Metrolink crash in Chatsworth:

<http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-union-recall31-2009dec31%2C0%2C1442996.story>

Positive Public Relations Items:

This economy may force many families to choose between the heating bill and toys under the tree. But the Grand Junction Fire Department is trying to make sure as many children as possible have presents. The local firefighter union raised more than \$8,000, so it's going shopping three days this week:

<http://www.kjct8.com/Global/story.asp?S=11679744>

Firefighters in Oregon extend a helping hand this Holiday season: In the past week, hundreds of local families picked up the donations of food and toys that local fire departments and other area organizations pulled together for the holidays:

http://www.spotlightnews.net/features/story.php?story_id=126160531901225400

A veteran Longmont (CO) firefighter was recognized Thursday for his special efforts to keep the city's littlest residents safe and sound on the roads. The Longmont Twin Peaks Rotary Club on Thursday awarded Longmont Fire Lt. Monty Richardson the club's inaugural Above and Beyond Award for his work founding and leading the department's car-seat safety program:

http://www.timescall.com/news_story.asp?ID=19844

Las Vegas (NV) area firefighters are accepting a big donation of Teddy bears for distribution to children in traumatic situations:

<http://www.lasvegasnow.com/Global/story.asp?S=11716301>

Even with a smoldering garage, Layton (UT) firefighters managed to bring joy to a 9-year-old girl Monday night:

<http://www.deseretnews.com/article/705354753/Firefighters-save-Layton-girls-Christmas-present.html>

Redlands (CA) Fire Engineer Bill Conway is a soft-spoken man who prefers to work "behind the scenes," but his leadership in and out of the department often puts him in the thick of things. Conway is also the president of the Redlands Professional Firefighters Association (RPFA), the labor union representing the city's firefighters. The RPFA is heavily involved in donating time and money to community events: http://www.redlandsdailyfacts.com/news/ci_14084366

Training & Safety Related Items:

Crew Resource Management is the effective management or use of all available resources to mitigate a situation while minimizing errors, improving safety and increasing performance, according to the IAFC's definition. In order to achieve these goals, five factors have been identified as major components in accidents including the failure of teamwork, situational awareness, communication, decision making skills, and establishment of barriers. Each of these items is vital to the success of any fireground, EMS or specialty team incident. These factors must be examined, training created to emphasize them, practiced before the alarm and continuously reinforced after the initial training to be effective:

<http://www.firerescue1.com/fire-products/training-products/articles/682216-Developing-Crew-Resource-Management-Training-for-your-Department/>

Must see photos as firefighter's gear ignites during house fire:

<http://www.wusa9.com/news/watercooler/story.aspx?storyid=95098&catid=148>

Teachers should know their ABCs. Train conductors should know to stand clear of the closing doors. And it stands to reason that firefighters would know how to avoid starting kitchen fires. Apparently not. The FDNY was forced to send out an embarrassing memo last week reminding members about basic stovetop safety after a careless kitchen fire at a Brooklyn firehouse. Some kitchen walls got scorched at Engine 234/Ladder 123 in Crown Heights after someone left a cooking pot on a high flame while they went out on a call:

<http://www.firerescue1.com/firefighter-safety/articles/682829-Firehouse-kitchen-fire-prompts-FDNY-safety-memo/>

Records reveal scant communication between an inmate firefighting crew whose camp was overrun by the massive Station Fire near Los Angeles (CA) and the commanders who were directing the firefighting operation, a newspaper reported Wednesday. Dispatch logs obtained by the Los Angeles Times reveal little contact between the crews at Fire Camp 16 and the command center and raise questions as to whether fire commanders realized the grave dangers that the camp faced. The logs contained no calls to evacuate the camp or any effort to send help as the flames raced toward it, the Times reported:

<http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/n/a/2009/12/30/state/n232503S22.DTL>

General Fire Service Related Items:

Elected officials from four California cities will decide in the new year whether a plan to combine their fire departments and potentially save millions of dollars per year moves forward or turns to ashes. City and town councils from Hillsborough, Burlingame, San Bruno and Millbrae have to decide if they want to hire Citygate Associates LLC, a Folsom-based firm that specializes in fire and emergency medical service consulting, to do an evaluation of whether it's possible or advisable for the cities to merge their fire departments:

<http://www.firerescue1.com/fire-department-management/articles/681273-Calif-fire-departments-may-merge-to-save-cash/>

Unpaid Ambulance Bills Debated in Idaho:

<http://www.emsresponder.com/article/article.jsp?id=11412&siteSection=1>

The new year could bring mandatory drug testing for all of Pittsburgh's (PA) approximately 630 firefighters, city Public Safety Director Michael Huss said yesterday. He discussed the policy following the arrest and suspension of a firefighter who was accused of stealing a security vehicle from the Rivers Casino and leading police on a chase. When police apprehended the firefighter, William White, in the 2600 block of Brighton Road, he reeked of alcohol and spat in the face of an officer, according to a criminal complaint. A test later showed that Mr. White's blood-alcohol level was nearly three times the legal limit. It was at least the third time this year a city firefighter has faced criminal charges related to drugs or alcohol. "There are a lot of good firefighters out there who are disappointed that these incidents keep occurring," Mr. Huss said yesterday: <http://www.post-gazette.com/pg/09365/1024790-53.stm>

Obituary: Richard Ibarra was a devoted firefighter, EMT and dad. Mr. Ibarra, 43, a Cosumnes (CA) Community Services District Fire Department Firefighter, died Wednesday at UC Davis Medical Center of respiratory arrest. He had entered the hospital last month for a fast-spreading rash that damaged his internal organs. An autopsy will determine whether exposure to toxins as a firefighter contributed to his death:

<http://www.sacbee.com/obituaries/story/2409743.html>

Twin Falls County (ID) commissioners on Monday approved the annexation of Kimberly and Hansen into the Rock Creek Rural Fire Protection District. For Kimberly and Hansen residents, that won't mean a change in fire service, because the two cities have long contracted with the district for fire service. But it will mean residents will have the fire district's levy included on their property-tax bills:

http://www.magicvalley.com/news/article_d9bde7d0-6ce1-578e-ad0c-998c130b06cb.html

The Blackfoot (ID) Fire Department's expenses have continued to exceed available revenue — something city officials attribute to growing costs and lower payments for Medicare patients: <http://www.am-news.com/content/view/147758/1/>

The Nativity scene at Charleston (SC) Fire Station 12, which was removed last week after the city received a written complaint from a national First Amendment watchdog organization, was restored Tuesday once city officials decided to enhance the display with other holiday decorations. "After analyzing its options, the City and Fire Department determined that to make sure the holiday decorations are in compliance with the laws, the Fire Department is adding decorations to the Nativity scene to include a Jewish Chanukah menorah, Kwanzaa kinara, Santa Claus, elves and reindeer," Charleston Fire Department officials announced in a news release recently: <http://www.postandcourier.com/news/2009/dec/23/deck-the-station/>

Challenging economic times require creative thoughts to increase revenues: Syracuse's (NY) new fire chief has connections to push 'rent-a-firefighter' idea: http://www.syracuse.com/news/index.ssf/2009/12/syracuses_new_fire_chief_has_c.html

Some cities on the Monterey (CA) peninsula are a step closer to something that's been talked about for decades, combining fire departments. It's part of a plan for cities across the peninsula to save money. Monterey Fire Chief Sam Mazza says the merger has gone exceptionally well by providing better service to both cities. "We believe we are better prepared and poised now to provide enhanced services for both the community and residents of Monterey and Pacific Grove with increased depth and operational integration," says Chief Sam Mazza. It's been one year since the merger, and now the Monterey and Pacific Grove Fire Departments want to be a model to other cities and fire agencies on the peninsula. Monterey Fire Chief Sam Mazza says the merger has gone exceptionally well by providing better service to both cities. Wednesday, the city of Monterey approved to seriously look at joint operations with the City of Marina: <http://www.kionrightnow.com/Global/story.asp?S=11684571>

San Jose (CA) Mayor Chuck Reed is urging the city council to approve a change in the arbitration process for police and fire union contracts. Historically, the meetings are held in secret, but Mayor Reed said it's time to change that. "There's nothing really that should be kept private. These are about arguments and about money and how much pay and benefits should be allocated to our police and firefighters under the arbitration revisions of our charter," said Reed. "That ought to be open to the public. We're spending public dollars, the arbitrators are making decisions that affect public dollars and the public ought to have a right to be there:" <http://cbs5.com/local/san.jose.arbitration.2.1372172.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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