



FIRE & EMS NEWS

January 25, 2010

Welcome to the latest issue of the Chabot College Fire & EMS News! This latest issue is jam packed with fire service news stories, training opportunities, training and safety information, volunteer opportunities and employment opportunities.

FIREFIGHTER SAFETY INFORMATION:

California Approves Requirement for Fire Sprinklers in All New Homes Beginning in 2011

The National Fire Sprinkler Association (NFSA), the longest-tenured fire sprinkler advocacy organization in the U.S., announces the State of California has adopted building code changes that will require all new one- and two-family homes and townhouses built in the state starting January 1, 2011, to be equipped with life-saving fire sprinkler systems.

"This is a monumental victory for the residents and fire service professionals in California as the state is providing its residents and fire service professionals with an important life safety measure which will provide residents with peace of mind in their homes and fire service professionals extra time to perform their jobs," said NFSA President John Viniello.

http://sanjose.bizjournals.com/sanjose/prnewswire/press_releases/national/California/2010/01/13/NY37044

FIRE SERVICE PUBLIC INFORMATION:

Important Message from Deputy FEMA Administrator Richard Serino

Our thoughts and prayers continue to be with those affected by the devastating earthquake in Haiti. President Obama has instructed the federal government to undertake a swift, coordinated, and aggressive effort to save lives in Haiti, and FEMA continues to support USAID and others in those efforts.

On behalf of FEMA Administrator Fugate, I'd like remind you that FEMA is supporting
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USAID's efforts in Haiti with search and rescue teams, communications and coordination support, and relief supplies and commodities. As you well know, state, local, and tribal responders are the foundation of our nation's search and rescue teams. I know the President and Secretary Napolitano share my gratitude for the commitment and dedication shown by these responders.

State, local, and tribal governments with goods and services to offer to the relief effort in Haiti should direct their offers to helphaiti@state.gov. Responders are reminded to please not attempt self-dispatch to Haiti; USAID and the State Department are coordinating the deployment of resources to Haiti and responders should deploy only if tasked to do so.

The most urgent need that we can all fulfill at this time is to support ongoing disaster relief fundraising efforts. To help, I urge you to go online to <http://www.interaction.org/crisis-list/earthquake-haiti> to find relief organizations supporting the response in Haiti and make a contribution to support the disaster relief efforts.

Thank you for your continued hard work and commitment.

RESERVE FIREFIGHTER OPPORTUNITY – MANTECA, CA:

The [Manteca \(CA\) Fire Department](#) is looking for **Reserve Firefighters!**

Although this is a continuous recruitment, the cutoff for the first round of hiring will be 5 pm on March 1, 2010.

Job Requirements:

- 18 years of age
- High school diploma or GED
- California State Firefighter I or Academy Graduation Certificate
- Valid CPAT within 1 year of March 1, 2010
- Live within 20 air miles of Manteca, CA
- Be able to respond to at least 25% of emergency callbacks a year.
- Be able to attend trainings on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm.
- Be able to complete a minimum of 12 hours and a max of 24 hours of paid ride time on an engine or truck company a month.

More information is available at www.mantecafire.org or www.ci.manteca.ca.us/fire

For more information, you may contact Engineer Travis Gooch at tgooch@ci.manteca.ca.us or 209-456-8300.

Applications may be picked up and dropped off at Manteca Fire Station 2, 1154 South Union Road, Manteca, CA 95337.

JANUARY 2010 FIREHIRE NEWSLETTER:



Where Your Fire Service Career Begins!

LATEST NEWS

Unfortunately, due to hard economic times, we have had to cancel the May 2010 examination process. We received our semi-annual information from the agencies and with that information, it has been determined that there isn't enough actual hiring that will occur in the next six months to warrant putting on an examination process.

If your year was due to expire in January 2010 or July 2010, we will be extending your eligibility until the October 2010 examination.

We have a new look on our website. It is still a work in progress. We haven't updated the look in about 8 years. Yes, it was about time. Sign the Guestbook and let us know what you think.

If you wish to re-test to improve your scores or you are renewing your annual test, you DO NOT have to submit another application packet. We keep everyone's application packet on file for at least 4 years. If you want to fill out an updated application packet, please feel free to do so.

If you are new to the process, applications are available to download from www.firehire.com/downloads.htm

You can also receive an application via USPS mail by contacting our office at (800) 755-5891.

CPAT INFORMATION

We will only accept a copy of a valid CPAT card/certificate.

When you turn in your copy of the CPAT card/certificate, it must be filed with FIREHIRE Inc. on/or before the date of the written examination.

The CPAT card/certificate must be dated LESS THAN ONE YEAR OLD from the date of the written examination that you are participating in.

RECENT FIREHIRE CANDIDATE HIRINGS

Between July 10th, 2009 and January 15th, 2010 the following agencies have conducted interviews with FIREHIRE candidates:

- Vallejo FD
- San Mateo FD (Lateral)

COULD YOU BE NEXT?

January 15, 2010

FIREHIRE Written Examination Study Guide

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

WRITTEN EXAMINATION DATES/TIMES

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

FIREHIRE® Inc. is now on facebook. Please take the time to join our group on facebook. You can look for future chat sessions within the FIREHIRE group. You can join by going to the following link: <http://www.facebook.com/home.php?ref=home#/group.php?gid=62991536851>

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

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.

TRAINING & SAFETY OPPORTUNITY AT THE NATIONAL FIRE ACADEMY:



[Register Today for the Everyone Goes Home® Safety Summit](#)

The [Everyone Goes Home® Safety Summit](#) will take place on March 5 - 7, 2010 at the National Fire Academy in [Emmitsburg, Md.](#) Please [take a moment to register](#), as a limited number of seats are available.

Sessions Include:

- **NIOSH Investigations and Recommendations to Prevent Vehicle Related LODDs and Injuries**
Virginia Lutz
- **Serious Gaming for Incident Mgmt. & Training**
Michael Pak, Director of CATT Lab - University of Md.

- **IAFC "NEW" Rules of Engagement for Firefighter Safety and Risk Management, Best Practices**
Gary Morris - Chairman, IAFC ROG Task Force
- **Fire Behavior and Wind Driven Fires**
Dan Madrzykowski, NIST
- **Light Weight Construction**
Chris Hasbrook, Underwriters Laboratories

...And More! [Click Here to View the Full Schedule](#)

FIRE SERVICE PUBLIC INFORMATION:

Haiti Earthquake Relief

On January 12, 2010, a massive earthquake struck the nation of Haiti, causing catastrophic damage inside and around the capital city of Port-au-Prince. President Obama has promised the people of Haiti that "you will not be forsaken; you will not be forgotten." The United States Government has mobilized resources and manpower to aid in the relief effort. Visit the [White House's Haiti Earthquake Relief Web page](#) to learn how you can get involved. The page provides information on:

- How to Donate
- Getting Information about Friends or Family
- The Federal Response

In addition, the page contains a video of today's remarks by the President on recovery efforts in Haiti and Web banners that you can download for your Web site.



TRAINING OPPORTUNITY AT THE NATIONAL FIRE ACADEMY:

**STUDENT RECRUITMENT FOR
Emergency Medical Services: Quality Management
P158 – Pilot Offering**

January 25, 2010

www.chabotfire.com

The United State Fire Administration (USFA), Department of Homeland Security, is conducting a pilot course at the National Emergency Training Center (NETC) in Emmitsburg, Maryland for the newly developed 6-day course *Emergency Medical Services: Quality Management (P158)*.

The National Fire Academy (NFA) will be delivering this pilot offering July 25-30, 2010, with students to arrive Saturday July 24 and depart Saturday July 31, 2010.

Student Selection Criteria: Individuals who have department-level Quality Management (Quality Assurance, Quality Improvement) responsibilities. Responsibilities can range from field responder to department chief officer or Medical Director.

Class Size: 22

Length: 6 days

Prerequisites: ICS 100 level and ICS 200 level training. Preferred courses are Q462 and Q463 available through NFA Online at www.nfaonline.dhs.gov. Chief's signature attests that the applicant has completed this required training.

How to Apply:

- Students must complete a FEMA General Admissions application (From 75-5). An electronic application is available on our website at: <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/nfa/about/attend/apply.shtm>
- Completed applications must be postmarked by March 1, 2010 and sent to:
- NETC Admissions Office
Building I, Room 216
16825 S. Seton Avenue
Emmitsburg, MD 21727
- Completed applications may also be faxed to the NETC Admissions Office at (301) 447-1441.
- Applicants should not make plans to attend this pilot course until notified in writing by the NETC Admissions Office.
- Stipends for eligible students are available for attendance for this pilot course. Attendance at the pilot course does not prevent an eligible student from obtaining another stipend within the same fiscal year.

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

National Fire Academy Completes Management Science Curriculum Overhaul

Emmitsburg, MD - The United States Fire Administration's (USFA) National Fire Academy (NFA) has completed a top-to-bottom review and update of its Management Science curriculum. This comprehensive review includes new course content, addressing emerging issues and challenges faced by the nation's fire and emergency medical services. Course names now reflect the increasingly diverse role contemporary fire and emergency medical services leaders play in their communities.

"Emergency services management skills have changed over the last few years, and the USFA's NFA is modernizing several of its more popular courses to stay on top of this trend," said NFA Superintendent Dr. Denis Onieal. "The Management Science curriculum now offers some of the leading courses that prepare today's fire service leaders to better handle the challenges of managing organizations in today's rapidly changing economic, political, regulatory and social climates." Located on the campus of the National Emergency Training Center in Emmitsburg, Maryland, the NFA has trained more than 120,000 students in 2009 through face-to-face deliveries; long-standing partnerships with State and metropolitan fire service training organizations, colleges and universities; and online learning. More than 8,000 students attend classes at the Emmitsburg facility each year.

"We are particularly pleased with the efforts of Management Science training staff, who so diligently contributed to these curriculum revisions and modernization," said United States Fire Administrator Kelvin J. Cochran. "The creativity and vision of NFA leadership resulted in content designed to challenge students."

New on-campus course titles include *R107 - Communications for Emergency Services Success* (formerly Fire Service Communications), *R331 - Strategic Organizational Issues in Fire and EMS* (formerly Organizational Theory in Practice), and *R332 - Effective Leadership Skills for Fire and EMS Organizations* (formerly Interpersonal Dynamics in Fire Service Organizations).

Three other courses in the Management Science curriculum were updated to include lessons learned and activities emphasizing the NFA's Congressionally-mandated role to expand its presence in fire-based emergency medical services management training and education. The popular two-day courses *Leadership I, II and III* also have been re-titled to *Leadership I, II and III for Fire and EMS* to recognize the increasingly important role of emergency medical services in fire service delivery.

For more information about the new Management Science curriculum or other United States Fire Administration programs and offerings, visit www.usfa.dhs.gov. You can also follow USFA updates on Twitter at twitter.com/usfire.

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 positions to hire more firefighters. So this provides some people a 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
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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 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

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!

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- **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:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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: <u>Structure fires</u> (residential, high-rise, commercial, apartment, etc.), <u>Wildland fires</u>, <u>Mass-Casualty Incidents</u>, & <u>Haz Mat Incidents</u>.

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

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.

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

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.

**MARCH 22 AND 23, 2010 – ALAMEDA COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT - \$250.00
Go To www.trainfirefighters.com FOR ONLINE REGISTRATION**

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 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 EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY:

The *Denver (CO) Fire Department* will be accepting applications for the position of **Firefighter** until February 26, 2010 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/

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:**

Firehouse World – *San Diego, CA*

February 28 through March 4, 2010

Go to www.firehouseworld.com for more information.

EMS Today Conference – *Baltimore, MD*

March 2 through 6, 2010

Go to www.emstodayconference.com for more information.

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

April 19 through 24, 2010

Go to www.fdic.com for more information.

Firehouse Expo – *Baltimore, MD*

July 20 through 25, 2010

Go to www.firehouseexpo.com for more information.

Fire Rescue International – *Chicago, IL*

August 24 through 28, 2010

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

Firehouse Central – *Dallas, TX*

September 27 through October 1, 2010

Go to www.firehousecentral.com 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

FIREFIGHTER EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES:

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

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

- www.firerecruit.com

- www.firecareers.com

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

FIRE SERVICE 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 FATALITY INFORMATION:

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

Name:	Leroy Kemp
Rank:	Firefighter/Past Chief
Age:	85
Gender:	Male
Status:	Volunteer
Years of Service:	60
Date of Incident:	01/13/2010
Time of Incident:	0600
Date of Death:	01/13/2010
Fire Department:	Tioga Center Fire Department
Address:	60 Fifth AVE, Tioga Center, NY 13845
Fire Department Chief:	Milton Kemp (son of deceased)
Fire Department POC:	Milton Kemp

Incident Description: Firefighter Leroy Kemp was responding to a mutual aid call when he was involved in a multiple vehicle crash. He was killed upon impact.

Incident Location: Pending

Funeral Arrangements: Pending

Memorial Fund Contact and Address: Donations to Tioga Center Fire Department in honor of Firefighter Kemp to Tioga Center Fire Department, 60 Fifth Avenue, Tioga Center, New York 13845, (607) 687-4102.

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

To date, two firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2010; one from an incident that occurred in 2010 and one 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

AND:

Name:	Terry Cannon
Rank:	Major
Age:	52
Gender:	Male
Status:	Volunteer
Years of Service:	33
Date of Incident:	01/17/2010
Time of Incident:	Pending
Date of Death:	01/17/2010
Fire Department:	Buechel Fire Protection District
Address:	4101 Bardstown RD, Louisville, KY 40218
Fire Department Chief:	Jonathon Yuodis
Fire Department Website:	http://www.buechelfire.com

Incident Description: Major Cannon passed away from an apparent heart attack shortly after responding to a residential fire alarm.

Incident Location: Southeast YMCA, 5930 Six Mile Lane, Louisville, KY 40218

Funeral Arrangements: Visitation will be 01/20/2010 from 1600-2000hrs and 01/21/2010 from 1300-2000hrs at Ratterman and Sons Funeral Home. Services will be held 01/22/2010 at 1000hrs at Saint Bartholomew Catholic Church.

Memorial Fund Contact and Address: In lieu of flowers, the family has asked for donations to be made to WHAS Crusade for Children, PO Box 1100, Louisville, KY 40201

Tribute is being paid to Firefighter Major Terry Cannon at <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/>

To date, five firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2010; four from incidents that occurred in 2010 and one 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

AND:

Name: Joseph Mack McCafferty
Rank: Lieutenant
Age: 59
Gender: Male
Status: Career
Years of Service: 37
Date of Incident: 01/02/2010
Time of Incident: 1730hrs
Date of Death: 01/16/2010
Fire Department: Lancaster Fire Department
Address: 1596 East Main Street, Lancaster, OH 43130
Fire Department Chief: Steven Sells

Incident Description: Lieutenant McCafferty was incident commander at the scene of a residential structure fire when he collapsed on the fireground and later succumbed to an apparent stroke.

Incident Location: Pending

Funeral Arrangements: Showing 01/21/2010, 2pm - 4pm, 6pm - 8pm. Faith Memorial Church, 2160 West Fair Ave., Lancaster, OH 43130. Funeral 10:00 AM Friday January 22, 2010, Faith Memorial Church, 2160 West Fair Ave., Lancaster, OH 43130

Memorial Fund Contact and Address: Local 291 Memorial Fund, 1596 East Main Street, Lancaster, Ohio 43130 ATTN: Dana Hiles

Tribute is being paid to Lieutenant Joseph Mack McCafferty at <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/>

To date, four firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2010; three from incidents that occurred in 2010 and one 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

AND:

Name: Jerry Thompson
Rank: Firefighter
Age: 55
Gender: Male
Status: Volunteer
Years of Service: 10
Date of Incident: 01/14/2010
Time of Incident: 1315hrs
Date of Death: 01/14/2010
Fire Department: Linwood Volunteer Fire Department

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Address: 10060 Road 248, Union, MS 39365
Fire Department Chief: Gerald Spears

Incident Description: While at the scene of a structure fire, Firefighter Thompson collapsed. CPR efforts were started immediately by firefighters on-scene and Firefighter Thompson was transported by LifeCare EMS to Laird Hospital where he succumbed to an apparent heart attack.

Incident Location: Road 262 in Neshoba County (USNG: 16S CB 0433 0745).

Funeral Arrangements: Sunday, January 17, 200.

Memorial Fund Contact and Address: Pending

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

To date, three firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2010; two from incidents that occurred in 2010 and one 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 listserve do not represent the final on-duty firefighter fatality determination by USFA for such reports, nor LODD determination made by the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation (www.firehero.org) for names added each subsequent year to the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial at the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, MD, they are the beginning of a research process for each firefighter fatality reported so that such determinations can be made.

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

Hey,

Yesterday a Captain with **Sacramento City** (Calif) received 2nd degree burns to his hand and face while operating at a single story house fire. The truck (Truck 6) arrived 1st ahead of all the engine companies. The house was reported to be occupied and they initiated a search. While donning a facepiece in the Charlie side kitchen doorway (with **almost** no fire showing in the kitchen), a flashover occurred in an attached garage that created some unusual fire behavior - blowing a blast of superheated air through the attached kitchen and enveloping the Captain, who was kneeling in the doorway donning his facepiece (the reason his glove was off). The whole event lasted less than 5 seconds. Once the garage flashed the fire free burnt in the garage and was contained in the garage.

There are 2 initial lessons learned as sent to us from Sac City:

1. Make sure and don all PPE well clear of any potential vent locations.
2. With attached garages where vertical vent is not possible, make sure a horizontal vent is created on an exterior wall and is coordinated with the entry team. We'll post more details as they become available.

VIDEO/UPDATE-MODESTO FIREFIGHTERS BURNED:

Here is a link to raw video of that single family dwelling fire that resulted in 2 Firefighters falling thru the roof they were venting. The video gives a bit better perspective on the area and size: <http://tinyurl.com/yahfd6s>

And here is a link to a public article on related fires and the issues of "modified" structures- and the dangers to us: <http://www.modbee.com/featured/story/998154.html>
One FF remains in the hospital with 3rd degree burns over 50% of his body.

OHIO FIREFIGHTER TRAPPED:

A Cincinnati Firefighters was briefly trapped at a dwelling fire early this morning. Initial reports are that his injuries are minor and he was transported. More details to follow.

NATIONS MOST SENIOR FIRE CHIEF PASSES AWAY:

A couple of months ago, we had the pleasure of being involved in some Firefighter training up in Vermont- and specifically in the Vergennes area. We also had the pleasure of our truck breaking down and having to stay there for 3 days, but there are few better places to be "stuck" in than there. But probably the most important and amazing part of that trip was being at the Vergennes FD, where their leader Chief Ralph Jackman, had (at that time) been the Fire Chief for 55 years continuously. Amazingly, Chief Ralph Jackman served on the Vergennes Fire Department for 62 years - 55 years as Chief of Department. He finally retired this past November at the age of 85 and he is believed to be the longest-serving fire chief in American history. Sadly, Chief Jackman passed away a few days ago, from natural causes. Here is an article about the difference he made in so many ways. RIP.

<http://www.wcax.com/Global/story.asp?S=11776073>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 1-7-10 0737 Hours

AND:

Hey,

This morning's edition of the Today Show on NBC contained a feature that dramatically shows the current state of many 9-1-1 and emergency dispatch centers in the United States. This was a very accurate piece and should be of interest - and concern - to every Firefighter, Officer and Chief.

While showcasing a really tragic EMS run in Texas, where the City did not provide pre-arrival instructions (a toddler died) the show went on to point out that many states have no standards for 9-1-1 call takers, telecommunicators and dispatcher. They also point out that some are paid less than fast food employees, and that "raids" on 9-1-1 funds whereby moneys are illegally or "weaselly" diverted by City Hall Dwellers to other uses, are common.

In these tough fiscal times, many 9-1-1 centers have also faced the "furlough" of employees or freezing of vacancies. The lack of adequate staffing anywhere in the response and suppression chain is dangerous-as communications is our first line of response, when people have a fire. Nothing most of you don't know.

Check out this video at: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/21134540/vp/34745516> to get a better understanding of the challenges and frustrations faced by the folks "on the other end of the radio." After watching the show, at least asking about how "your" 9-1-1 and Emergency Communications system is funded, lead, trained and staffed might be a good idea. It's also a good opportunity for FF's to work thru whatever channels have to be worked thru-so you can actually spend some real time in your fire communications center to better understand the job of the communications folks. Unless you have done that, you do not understand what they do.

The final comments by Matt Lauer also holds people responsible for prevention-which is a positive message. But, as always, when that doesn't work, people dial 9-1-1, and while there are many well funded, trained and lead 9-1-1 personnel, there are many more that are not.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 1-7-09 / 1207 Hours

AND:

ARIZONA PARAMEDIC DIES IN THE LINE OF DUTY-VEHICLE CRASH LODD

Pinal County Arizona: It is with deep regret we advise you of the Line of Duty Death of Paramedic Mark Vernick of Arizona. Vernick, 33, who died today, Friday, January 8, 2010 in a vehicle crash while enroute from one duty station to another. He was an employee of Southwest Ambulance As always, our most sincere condolences.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL,

BillyG

The Secret List 1-8-10 / 1931 hours

AND:

AUSTRALIAN FIREFIGHTER KILLED, OTHERS HURT WHILE RESPONDING ON A RUN

A Country Fire Authority (Victoria, Australia) Volunteer Frefighter died in the Line of Duty and January 25, 2010

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

four others were injured this evening when the fire tanker they were responding in rolled over in northern Victoria. The CFA firefighters had been called to a fire - but paramedics were called to the scene about 6.30am (Aus. Time-1-10-09) after one or two of the injured made their way to a nearby house to get help, after the crash. When paramedics arrived, they found the deceased Firefighter/Driver trapped in the tanker. A 42-year-old FF was flown to Royal Melbourne Hospital with spinal and chest injuries and a 52-year-old FF with neck, back and head injuries was flown as well. 2 other injured FF's were driven to the hospital by EMS. Updates to follow. As always our sincere condolences.

Take Care,
BillyG
The Secret List 1-10-09 / 1949 hours

AND:

Hey,
Last night, while operating at a motor vehicle collision, 4 Maryland Firefighters were injured in a secondary crash-while their engine was blocking. The **Grasonville VFD** was operating at a motor vehicle collision on Rt 50 on top the Kent Narrows bridge in Queen Anne's County. The Engine was being used to block and protect the right lane and shoulder. 2 tractor trailers approached the accident scene. The first truck changed lanes, but apparently blocked the view of the second truck. The second truck struck the engine in the pump panel. 4 Firefighters were transported to Anne Arundel Hospital in Annapolis and have since been discharged and are recovering at home.

REMEMBER: Block & protect on the road as if drivers are intentionally targeting you and your crew.

For more info go to www.ResponderSafety.com

DASHCAM RECORDS FATAL EMS CRASH:

In the below video you will hear the EMT driver state he was not paying attention as he and his partner were talking-but we have to wonder if **fatigue** played a role-again. **Sleep, or the lack of it continues to be identified as a major factor related to performance in the fire & EMS field. (See report below)**

The trial began Monday for a Westmoreland County EMT involved in a fatal crash that killed a county prison guard more than 3 years ago. EMT Jason Fait ran a red light at an intersection striking another vehicle on the morning of Oct. 30, 2006. Dashcam video detailing the crash was played inside the courtroom on Monday (**Watch video below**)

EMT Fait and a paramedic also riding in the Penn Township ambulance were not hurt, but Frank Scalise Jr., 46, died a week after being injured in the crash. Fait was not en route to a call during the time of the crash, but had just dropped off a patient at a hospital at about 0530 Hours before leaving to return to their quarters. Police said the ambulance's warning sirens and lights were not on. Police said the ambulance was believed to have been traveling at 40 miles per hour -- five miles per hour under the speed limit. If convicted of homicide by vehicle, Fait could face up to six months in prison or probation.

VIDEO MEDIA REPORT & DASHCAM CLIPS:

<http://www.thepittsburghchannel.com/news/22209687/detail.html>

IAFC / USFA SLEEP DEPROVATION IN FIRE & EMS REPORT:

<http://www.iafc.org/displaycommon.cfm?an=1&subarticlenbr=559>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL. GET SOME SLEEP.

BillyG

The Secret List 1-12-10 / 1300 Hours

AND:

NEW YORK FIREFIGHTER KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY-RESPONDING CRASH

A Tioga Center (NY) Firefighter was killed in the Line of Duty this morning as he responded to an emergency squad call. LeRoy Kemp, a member of the Tioga Center FD & Emergency Squad, was en route to a cardiac call in nearby Nichols when he was involved in the three-vehicle crash. FF Kemp was killed on impact. Initial details are that as he responded to the firehouse, there was an accident involving a car and a recycling truck, which blocked the road. It appears that he did not see the accident until the last minute, and attempted evasive action, but could not avoid the other vehicles. He struck the recycling truck and was killed on impact. FF Kemp's son Milt is chief of the Tioga Center Fire Department, where the Sr Kemp served for more than 60 years. **As always our sincere condolences to all affected.**

BAD NEWS: ARIZONA'S STATE-WIDE FIRE TRAINING PROGRAMS ANNIHILATED SO WHO CAN BAIL "THEM" OUT?

"So now how do we get certified training?"

Well that's a great question if you are from the sunny state of Arizona who just may have their budget cutting priorities all screwed up. Arizona has discontinued all firefighter training, certification, and accreditation services that were previously provided by the Fire Marshal's Office. Community colleges in Arizona are also canceling their FFI / FFII classes because there's no accreditation available. **There's another notice posted on the training section of the Fire Marshal's website that says they are working hard to backup and store all of the existing certification records from the state system before the servers are shut down.**

These reductions and mandates in Arizona will eliminate **all** state training and certification programs as well as Fire Marshal support for the Statewide Mutual Aid Program, the NFIRS Reporting System and other major programs and activities. In addition, the 2nd Annual Arizona Fire Instructors Conference, scheduled for April 8th and 9th in Mesa, and s a collaborative event between the AFCA and the State Fire Marshals Office, has been canceled.

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT BAIL OUT?

While we don't doubt there is money "somewhere" in the state budget, this makes ya think a bit. What's more important than basic and continued certified fire-rescue training? You know: "America's First Responder" type stuff. While the cuts don't stop local FD's from doing local basic and continuing training, it does stop the process of **certified** training. We have to wonder if in situations like this, could/should FEMA or USFA step in and take over, providing the needed funding? Kind of a low cost but high impact FEDERAL GOVERNMENT bailout. Not a grant (although we could talk about that) but just a BAILOUT that would have a direct, measurable and positive impact to the citizens.

No big wigs.
No fancy jet planes.
No fancy suits.
No million dollar salaries.
Just some Firefighter training.

We're just say'n---

Anyway, **HERE** is a link explaining all the cuts:

<http://www.dfbls.az.gov/UserFiles/file/ofm/budgetannouncement.pdf>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL,

BillyG

The Secret List 1-13-10 / 1120 hours

AND:

Hey,

These are very tough times-and times that are going to probably continue to be stressful politically for us for the foreseeable future. Due to a mixture of the economy and local political opportunity, many fire departments are not going to look the same as they once did. Interesting but very concerning times for so many departments, their members-and their leaders. Words like "re-invent", "brown out", "cuts" and "reduction" along with terms like "let's do a study" are alive and well in City Halls across the United States and Canada.

When things get tough, emotions run high (often very justifiably) and sometimes we are forced into corners. At one time or another, all of us get forced into a corner at varied levels. Sometimes we back off-and sometimes that is what is best-and doing so can even help your cause. In other cases, we do not back off or back down and we do stick to our guns-often at great risk to careers or membership. Finding the balance and wisdom of "when to" and "when not to" seems to be the key. It is not easy.

But there are times when we simply cannot and will not back down and personally put a lot at stake for what we believe in. Many who have done that have regretted it-sort of "cutting off your nose" stuff-but others have no regret whatsoever as they believe what they do, are doing or have done-is absolutely the right thing.

There are 2 recent stories out there worth reading, 2 stories about 2 Firefighters who have stood up-irregardless of the consequences. And their standing up resulted in consequences. **They still stood up.**

The first is about a New Jersey Volunteer Deputy Fire Chief who has been suspended for six months after he created a petition that hundreds of residents signed, urging officials **not to eliminate the only two paid firefighter positions** in their Fire District. The Deputy Chief tried to get the officials to understand how the community felt-and how critical their career firefighters are to the fire company's ability to deliver service. But that wasn't what the officials wanted www.nj.com/news/local/index.ssf/2010/01/monroe_deputy_fire_chief_suspe.html

The other is about the (former) Fire Commissioner of Buffalo (New York). Mike Lombardo has been a Firefighter for many years and he loves being a Firefighter as much as any Firefighter. Trust us. Mike moved up the BFD's organizational ladder over time and "one day" --to the

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

delight of people in and out of Buffalo, he was appointed Fire Commissioner. But **Mike never forgot what the job was about-and what is needed to do the job.** As Commissioner, he deeply understood his responsibility to his members-but also to the families of the members-and the citizens of Buffalo-and his actions everyday reflected it.

But that wasn't what the City Hall dwellers wanted.

<http://www.buffalonews.com/cityregion/story/908865.html>

As Firefighters move up the ladder, some decisions and risks remain the same, others change but additional "different" ones definitely get added on. As they add up, the possibility of having to "stand up" for what you believe in as being important, certainly increases at varied levels. When pushed in a corner, things can get so heated that a politically related career or position "flashover" may occur. When we operate in a fire, especially when flashover is a possibility, standing up is not recommended. However, when things get heated on an issue you truly believe in (outside the fireground) standing up may absolutely be required.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL. **STAND UP.**

BillyG

The Secret List 1-13-10 / 2117 Hours

AND:

Hey,

A patient has been killed and 2 EMT's heavily entrapped in a fatal ambulance crash this afternoon on Rt. 519 in White Township, Warren County,N.J. The ambulance is reportedly pinned between a tree and another object. 2 medevacs and numerous mutual aid is operating. The EMT's are both reportedly being flown out. We'll post more details later.

Take Care-Be Careful,

BillyG

The Secret List 1-14-09 / 1629 Hours

AND

NEW JERSEY FIREFIGHTER KILLED WHILE SERVING IN THE USMC "Leaves behind a family of Firefighters" We regret to advise you that a New Jersey Volunteer Firefighter, USMC Sgt Christopher Hrbek, a 9 year member of the Westwood Fire Department, has been killed in action while serving with the Marine Corps in Afganistan. Sgt Hrbek comes from a family of Firefighters; his step-father, Jaymee Hodges, is currently a Captain in the Westwood department and his two step brothers, Jim and Beau Hodges, are members of the FDNY. Our sincere condolences as we all must remember we are at war and young men and women, like Sgt Hrbek, risk their lives everyday on behalf of our Country. R.I.P.

Take Care,

BillyG

The Secret List 1-15-10 / 0600 hour

AND

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

Hey, Shortly after we posted this Friday evening, the links to the video were removed on YOUTUBE. We have new links listed below so that everyone may see the video now. Thanks to STATTER911 for his help with this.

Below is a link to Friday's smoke explosion in Baltimore City-it's about as dramatic a video as you will see to demonstrate the power of heat, smoke and gases.

We have also received some preliminary info from the Chief and Deputy Chief in Baltimore with their initial details as well as info passed on to us from Dave Statter. According to Baltimore City Fire Chief Jim Clack the fire started in the basement of an occupied row house and appears to have been burning for "a while" before the fire department arrived. The first engine took a line through the front door to the rear kitchen area. The chief says that crew had some trouble finding the basement stairs. They were in the kitchen when it blew.

Another engine company went to the rear with a line to the outside stairwell leading to the basement. The chief says that crew was just starting down those stairs "when the fireball came up the stairwell into the back yard as well". Chief Clack advised, "The first truck vented some skylights on the roof as well as the front basement windows before the explosion." The chief also advised "Lots of 'personal' property" in the basement made getting to the seat of the fire very difficult." Five firefighters were hurt in the explosion. One remains hospitalized in stable condition. Two other were hurt during overhaul. According to Baltimore City Assistant Chief of Operations Don Heinbuch, there is no evidence of any accelerants and the initial thoughts are that the "backdraft" type explosion was most likely due to the heat, smoke and gases within the structure. More details to follow.

VIDEO: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zOclHCqsoWQ&feature=player_embedded
COVERAGE FROM STATTER911: <http://statter911.com/2010/01/15/must-see-video-from-baltimore-close-call-firefighters-caught-as-fireball-comes-out-the-front-door-of-rowhouse/>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL. PPE.
BillyG
The Secret List 1-16-10 / 0845 hours

AND

(TSL members: Please see the PATCHES request below)

Hey,
Several firefighters are recovering after crashing their fire apparatus on the way to an emergency call. around 0120 hours this morning in **Oldham County KY**. The North Oldham FD rig was heading westbound on the highway responding to a dwelling fire and the vehicle left the road, struck two utility poles and overturned, landing on the passenger side of the truck. Chief Rick Albers was driving the fire truck. Medics said he was taken to Norton Brownsboro Hospital. Capt. Mitch Slaughter was also taken to that hospital. Firefighter Thomas Woosley was flown to the University of Louisville Hospital. NOTE: ALL 3 only suffered minor injuries and were wearing seat belts at the time of the crash.

2 LINE OF DUTY DEATHS WE CAN RELATE TO:

There have been 2 non-fire LODD's this week that could have easily (and have) occurred to any Fire Fighter or EMT working on the roadways:

IN PENN-OFFICER ASSISTING AT CRASH SITE STRUCK:

40-year-old Delaware River Port Authority Police Corporal Christopher Milito was just weeks shy of his 16th anniversary with the department, when, just before 0200 yesterday morning, he responded to a crash on the eastbound side of the Walt Whitman Bridge. Initial reports are that while another officer was investigating, Milito noticed a driver trying to make a u-turn to avoid the scene. Conflicting reports indicate the officer may have tried crossing the 5 lane highway on foot. When Milito tried to tell the driver not to make the turn, he was struck by another driver. He was not married and had no children, a DRPA representative said. The driver of the car that struck Milito was taken into custody by Philadelphia police. The driver's name was not released.

IN NEW JERSEY-DUI DRIVER KILLS EMERGENCY PATROL OFFICER:

A New Jersey Emergency Service Patrol Operator was killed last Monday while trying to help a stranded driver. Operator Joseph Kealey was standing on the shoulder of I-76 East in Bellmawr when a white "DUI driven" Dodge Magnum careened off the roadway and into the man and his truck. The DUI civilian, 28-year-old Alyson Amour, hit Kealey and rear-ended his DOT service truck. We have photos on our home page. Amour was charged with driving while intoxicated and several motor-vehicle violations. In May 2006, she was among more than 100 people arrested when undercover officers posed as drug dealers in nearby north Camden. Amour was charged at that time with loitering for the purpose to commit a controlled dangerous substance offense.

MILITARY PERSONNEL REQUEST FIRE & RESCUE PATCHES:

Very senior Secret List member Bobby Halton (FDIC & Fire Engineering) has a son, Lieut. Dean Halton who is serving overseas. Actually, many of you have sons and daughters serving in our military and we always do our best to honor them and assist when we can. In this case, Dean flies UH 60 Nighthawk helicopters with the 63rd Sea Chargers and is currently deployed. The soldiers are allowed to wear nonmilitary fire & rescue patches on their flight uniforms in the Green zone as a way of honoring those organizations. Dean has requested some fire department patches.

CAN YOU HELP? I figured you could.

Please send YOUR FD patch to the Sea Chargers who will wear them on their flight uniforms to:

FIRE PATCHES

12144 N. 180th East Avenue
Collinsville, OK 74021

Take Care-BE CAREFUL-BLOCK & PROTECT ON THE ROADWAYS.

BillyG

The Secret List 1-17-10 / 1402 Hours

AND:

KENTUCKY FIRE MAJOR LODD: MEDICAL EMERGENCY

The Secret List www.FireFighterCloseCalls.com

It is with deep regret that we advise you that Buechel Fire Protection District (Louisville, KY) Major Terry Cannon, 52, died in the Line of Duty from a heart attack after responding on a run. Major Cannon had 33 years of service to the district. Members of his own department responded on a medical run to find him in full arrest and worked him with the ambulance crew into the hospital. Major Cannon leaves behind a wife and two daughters. Our sincere condolences.

==FRENCH FIREFIGHTER LODD-REPORTED BACKDRAFT:

Early this morning a 33 year old Firefighter from the La Rochelle fire station (Charente-Maritime County FD) was killed in the Line of Duty while operating at a commercial structure fire. According to French sources, a smoke explosion "backdraft" occurred and the Firefighter, operating on the second floor, was caught in the explosion and subsequent collapse. Conditions are reported to have been so bad that it wasn't possible to rescue the Firefighter due to the heavy fire involvement. His body was discovered about 45 minutes later under the debris. We will post more on our home page along with some photos. Our sincere condolences.

BACKDRAFT - SMOKE EXPLOSIONS:

Here are some **LINKS** to help with training and related review:

<http://www.readingsmoke.com/> (Website)

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

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GQ7B542OSF8> (Video)

www.firefighterclosecalls.com/downloads/ReadSmoke.ppt (Powerpoint)

<http://www.firetactics.com/service.htm> (Website)

==2010 FIRE COMPANY DRILL HELP:

Here are some ideas put together by FFCC's Forest R and Brian K that we thought would be helpful additions in your 2010 firefighter and fire company drill plans:

<http://firefighterclosecalls.com/weeklydrills.php> - Click to download the following drills

[Vol 18-215 12 Essential Skills](#)

[\[01-10-07\] Sample Training Program \(Vol 15-177\)](#)

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 1-18-10 / 0815 Hours

AND:

OHIO FIRE LIEUTENANT DIES IN THE LINE OF DUTY - MEDICAL EMERGENCY AT BUILDING FIRE

Lancaster Fire Lt. Joseph McCafferty has died in the Line of Duty after collapsing at the scene of that Saturday January 2nd, evening building fire. Lt. McCafferty, a 37-year veteran with the Lancaster FD was working with other firefighters on the ground that Saturday, when

he collapsed. Lt. McCafferty has served with the department since 1973 in different capacities, including a paramedic, engineer and lieutenant. Our sincere condolences.

PENNSYLVANIA HOMEBUILDERS TANTRUM AGAINST FIRE SPRINKLERS:
Against Their Customers. Against Fire Fighters.

Home-builders plan another effort (after losing their self serving fight) to keep Pennsylvania from requiring life saving home fire sprinkler systems. **As of Jan. 1, under the new law, all new townhomes and apartments must have fire sprinklers, designed to protect the very customers the homebuilders do not want protected.** Life saving fire sprinklers must be installed in every new duplex and single family home starting in 2011.

However, the apparently profit motivated Pennsylvania Builders Association said it will seek an injunction in Commonwealth Court to keep the state from enforcing the new law. "Our only option now is to work through the judicial branch of government to seek an injunction," complained Doug Meshaw, association executive vice president. **CONTACT INFO HERE:** <http://www.pabuuilders.org/displaycommon.cfm?an=1&subarticlenbr=683>

THE EXPERTS SPEAK UP:

"I don't see what kind of argument they would have for that," said PA. State Police Deputy Fire Marshall (and veteran Fire Fighter) Michael Rugh. It can't be cost, he said, since sprinklers increase a new home's cost by less than five percent. "If they mandated sprinklers in every structure, they would (barely) need fire departments anymore," Rugh said. Also, as State Fire Commissioner Ed Mann has noted, sprinklers protect firefighters as well as the residents and homes they aim to save.

Other safety groups have grown impatient with builders' resistance.

"The homebuilders better take a little more forward-looking attitude and start thinking, instead of profit, about safety," said John Viniello, E.D. of the non-profit, National Fire Sprinkler Association.

CONTACT INFO HERE: <http://www.nfsa.org/>

IAFC FIRE SPRINKLER INFO: <http://tinyurl.com/y983cf>

IAFF FIRE SPRINKLER SUPPORT: <http://tinyurl.com/yz5b8md>

HOME FIRE SPRINKLER: <http://www.homefiresprinkler.org/FS/FSHome.html>

IRC: <http://www.ircfiresprinkler.org/>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 1-18-10 / 1000 Hours

AND:

Hey,

A fire department tanker rolled over last night around 2130 hours in Independence Township, Warren County, New Jersey. One Firefighter from the Independence Volunteer Fire Company was taken by helicopter to the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey in Newark and another was ground transported. Initial reports are that they were returning

from training and this was not a responding incident. **We have a picture and will post updates on our home page.**

HAITI RESPONSE PERSPECTIVE FROM 9/11 FIREFIGHTERS:

Here is a link to an interesting article and video about some FDNY and NYPD responders operating in Haiti:

<http://tinyurl.com/ybprkm4>

<http://tinyurl.com/yae8e9m>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 1-19-10 / 0605 Hours

AND:

Hey,

MISSISSIPPI FF LODD-MEDICAL EMERGENCYA Mississippi firefighter died in the Line of Duty Jan. 14 after collapsing at a fire scene. FF Jerry Thompson, 55, of Linwood Fire Department in Union, Miss., was helping to mop up at a mobile home fire when he suffered an apparent heart attack. Fellow firefighters initiated CPR, and FF Thompson was flown to Laird Hospital where he was pronounced dead. Our sincere condolences.

APPARATUS CRASH LEAVES FIREFIGHTER PARALYZE

Two Queheel (NC) Firefighters were injured Friday afternoon when the driver of their fire tanker left the roadway and crashed while responding to a structure fire. FireNews.net is reporting that the driver was taken in with minor injuries but the other Firefighter was flown to UNC Hospitals in Chapel Hill with more severe injuries. The two firefighters were entrapped in the apparatus and required extrication. Reports this afternoon are now that the more seriously injured Firefighter may be partially paralyzed. Maxton FF Quintin Thompson, 18 is now reported to be paralyzed from the waist down. The driver of the tanker, FF Ronald McDaniel, 19 suffered minor injuries. The tanker driver ran off the right side of the road, overcorrected, and the vehicle rolled one and a half times, coming to rest on the driver's side and trapping FF's McDaniel and Thompson inside. We have pictures posted on our home page. The vehicle was traveling about 65 mph in a 55-mph zone but they don't anticipate that any charges will be filed.

3rd FIRE-EMS CRASH IN A WEEK IN WARREN COUNTY N.J.

Last week, there was that EMS crash where the patient died. Last night there was the tanker crash-following training and also yesterday, an 11-year-old fire apparatus was struck when a van driver sped through a stop sign in Belvidere and crashed into the "returning" rig carrying 3 Firefighters. Fortunately, no one was hurt in this (Firefighter) unavoidable incident, but the crash left the Good Will Fire Company apparatus cab twisted. A 72 year old civilian has been charged.

GROUP FIRE EQUIPMENT PURCHASING - TIGHT \$\$ - COOL OPPORTUNITIES:

Tough times. Tight Dollars. Below is a brand new video featuring the Fire Rescue Group Purchasing Organization which is open to **ANY FD**, and is coordinated by the Western Fire Chiefs. This is a national group-purchasing program; competitively bid, publicly awarded or negotiated contracts. Register for **FREE** at www.firerescue-gpo.com or by calling them at (800) 810-3909.

HERE is the fire service video: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ekwwdu4ClkE>

AND LASTLY, here is a media report related to **USAR team deployment-and non-deployment**: <http://www.cnn.com/2010/US/01/19/haiti.american.rescue.teams/index.html>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 1-19-10 / 1712 Hours

AND:

Hey,

Several Maryland Firefighters were injured this afternoon at a working single family dwelling fire. The Anne Arundel County Fire Department along with companies from other counties responded to the working fire in the single family dwelling, that was reported to be under renovation. Initial reports are that FF's fell thru the floor and a Mayday was transmitted for the Firefighters in the basement. As of this time (1529 Hours) very preliminary details are that at least 2 Firefighters were injured. MSP Medivac as well as multiple ALS ground units were requested and operating as well. Updates will follow as this is all very preliminary- we do have some photos posted on our home page.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 1-20-10 / 1529 Hours

AND:

Hey,

In more incredible news reflecting a sign of the times, the Tulsa (OK) FD said 147 of their Firefighters will be notified at tomorrow morning meeting that they will be laid off. Mayor Dewey Bartlett said he's still talking to the police and fire unions but that the layoff process must begin. Fire Chief Allen LaCroix revealed that the mayor's last offer to the fire union was for 5.2 percent salary cuts and no benefit concessions. That's compared to the original offer of 8.6 percent pay cuts and numerous benefit concessions. "I think it was fair," he said. "I can't believe (the union) hasn't accepted it." After the layoffs, the Tulsa Fire Department will operate **with 8 or 9 fewer companies per day, but will not result in any station closings.**

Read more **HERE:**

http://www.tulsaworld.com/news/article.aspx?subjectid=11&articleid=20100121_11_0_hrimgs647315

4 CHARLESTON (S.C.) FIREFIGHTERS FILE LAWSUIT: SOFA SUPER STORE FIRE

According to the Charleston City Paper (link below) Four Charleston firefighters have sued the Sofa Super Store, its owners and several furniture manufacturers, saying they've suffered from post traumatic stress syndrome, depression, and other ailments since the 9 CFD Firefighters died in the Line of Duty on June 18, 2007. In two of the cases, the firefighters' wives are named as co-plaintiffs, all contending they've suffered mental anguish, terror, suffering, and injuries since the night of the blaze. However, as far as what's been reported, the lawsuit mentions nothing related to the fire department or city having responsibility.

The complaint faults Sofa Super Store and its owner for illegal modifications that allowed for the rapid spread of the fire through the store, as well as the use and installation of highly flammable roofing and ceiling components. It goes on to fault the store and the manufacturers (of various products and items in the store) for the use of "unreasonably dangerous and highly flammable" materials in their products, and the store for displaying the items for sale without properly maintained sprinklers in the 42,000 square-foot building.

The complaint also claims that the facility's electrical disconnect system should have been outside of the building to prevent firefighters from having to go inside to shut the power off.

According to their lawsuit, had certain steps been taken, "the fire would have been quickly extinguished with little damage, without the loss of life of the [plaintiffs] friends and colleagues, and without the injuries" the plaintiffs allege. Instead, a flashover of the fire occurred while numerous firefighters were still operating inside, leading to the collapse of the steel-trussed roof-and the 9 Firefighter Line of Duty Deaths.

The plaintiffs were near the building when the roof collapsed and suffered injuries, extreme fright, shock, anxiety and mental distress when it occurred. Since then, they claim they've all suffered debilitating anxiety, general and constant feelings of fright, claustrophobia, angst, apprehension, and has a constant sense of doom and foreboding, "collectively referred to as a 'nervous breakdown,'" the complaint reads. The 4 Firefighters detail the numerous problems they have faced since the fire in the court filings.

HERE are more details and the entire article: <http://tinyurl.com/yky9t9p>

MARYLAND MAYDAY VIDEO and ESPECIALLY-THE AUDIO:

Here is a **LINK**: <http://tinyurl.com/ygxj6lv> to the **video and audio** from yesterday's **MAYDAY** in Anne Arundel County, Maryland where several Firefighters were injured in the fire that occurred in a non-hydranted area. Thanks to **Dave Statter** for the follow up.

====IMPORTANT AUDIO NOTE:

The below **AUDIO** is of great value for training purposes. **LISTEN** to the 1st due company officer's initial and various following radio reports-(Lieutenant 9)-and especially when she reports the floor is burned thru-and then a MAYDAY is transmitted following that. Lt. 9 then participates in gaining access to the Firefighters. While we were not there, from what it sounds like to us on the audio, Lt. 9, along with others did an outstanding job specific to what is heard on the audio.

MAYDAY AUDIO PART 1: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=52R7p2dAeqk&feature=related>

MAYDAY AUDIO PART 2: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9eiFZp7m0Kg&feature=related>

We also have several photos posted on our homepage sent in to us, taken during the operations.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 1-21-10 / 1329 Hours

AND:

Hey,

REMEMBER BLACK SUNDAY: January 23, 2005 was "black Sunday" in New York when FDNY Lt. Curtis W. Meyran (covering Ladder 27 that day) and FF John G. Bellew (Ladder 27) died in the Line of Duty at an apartment fire in the Bronx. Four other FF's were injured: Jeffrey Cool (Rescue 3) Joseph DiBernardo (Rescue 3), Brendan Cawley (Ladder 27) and Eugene Stolowski (Ladder 27). All 6 FF's were forced to jump from the 4th floor of an apartment building as they were trapped by the fire. And, as you'll remember, at a separate incident in Brooklyn that day, just 3 hours after the Bronx fire, FF Richard T. Sclafani (Ladder 103) was killed in the Line of Duty after getting trapped in the basement while operating at a residential fire.

HERE are links to reports and articles as we remember those who were injured and killed that day.

<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/reports/face200503.html> (NIOSH Report-BRONX)

<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/reports/face200504.html> (NIOSH Report-BROOKLYN)

<http://nymag.com/news/features/26574/index3.html> (NY Magazine Article Bronx Fire Double LODD)

TOTO-WE MAY NOT BE SAFE IN KANSAS:

KANSAS CONSIDERS LAW NOT ALLOWING LOCAL RESIDENTIAL FIRE SPRINKLER CODES.

Looks like some good old political backroom greasing and squealing has gone on in Kansas as the State politicians and home builders push that after July 1, 2010, no Kansas municipality shall be allowed to adopt or enforce any ordinance, order, code, standard or rule requiring the installation of residential fire sprinklers. While nothing stops anyone from doing it voluntarily, this will make it where NO community can require it-even if they want to. Nope. Can't Do It. Not Allowed.

HOUSE BILL No. 2515 - By Committee on Commerce and Labor 1-21 - AN ACT concerning cities and counties; relating to residential fire protection sprinkler systems. Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:

Section 1. As used in this act:

(a) "Municipality" means any city or county.

(b) "Residential structure" means any improvement to real property to be used or occupied as a single-family dwelling or multi-family dwelling of four attached living units or less.

Sec. 2. On and after July 1, 2010, no municipality shall adopt or enforce any ordinance, order, code, standard or rule requiring the installation of a multi-purpose residential fire protection sprinkler system or any other fire sprinkler protection system in any residential structure. Nothing in this section shall prohibit any person from voluntarily installing a multi-purpose residential fire protection sprinkler system or any other fire sprinkler protection system in a residential structure.

Sec. 3. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its publication in the statute book. <http://www.kslegislature.org/bills/2010/2515.pdf>

We'll see what the Kansas Fire Service can do as they go up against the big bucks sent in the direction of politicians from homebuilder associations, who are more focused on additional profit-than the safety of their customers and Kansas Firefighters.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 1-23-10 / 1217 hours

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

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

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

Budget Related Items:

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

At the first town-hall meeting to discuss Clark County's (NV) budget troubles Monday night, it quickly became evident how the powers will play their hands. Of the 325 people who showed up at the event hosted by Commissioner Steve Sisolak, a third were county employees, and most prominent among them were about 50 firefighters. The rest were people who had lost their jobs, had stories of county waste or wanted something done about the bleeding at University Medical Center. If county management and some commissioners have their way, firefighters could see their salaries slashed to address the projected \$126 million deficit next fiscal year: <http://www.lasvegassun.com/news/2010/jan/14/town-hall-budget-shows-which-side-which/>

FDNY Fire Commissioner Salvatore J. Cassano announced that the Fire Department — which a month ago reduced staffing levels on 49 engine companies from five firefighters to four — today restored the "fifth" firefighter on those companies due to a dramatic reduction in absenteeism among firefighters during the month of December. Under the UFA contract, of the city's 194 engine companies, 134 are staffed with four firefighters and 49 are staffed with five — if medical leave rates stay below 7.5%. Another 11 companies are always staffed with five firefighters, regardless of the medical leave numbers. After the city reduced staffing on December 2, the absenteeism rate for firefighters fell more than 16 percent, with an extra 100 firefighters per day on average reporting for work than during the prior 11 months. The annualized medical leave rate — which reached 7.53% on Dec. 1 — has fallen to 7.48% as of January 1. Higher medical leave rates result in increased overtime expenses for the city. The "fifth" firefighter on 49 engines costs approximately \$20 million annually:
<http://www.firerescue1.com/fire-products/fire-department-management/articles/737058-FDNY-engine-staffing-levels-restored/>

Fast-food chain KFC is giving Indianapolis and another Indiana city \$7,500 so it can emblazon founder Colonel Sanders' face on their hydrants and fire extinguishers to promote new "fiery" chicken wings. Experts say to expect more ads like this, on public property from sewer grates to the local landfill, as companies look to cut through the clutter of traditional advertising. Cash-strapped governments have long sold space on mass transit, benches, trash cans and other public property to help stretch budgets:
<http://www.indystar.com/article/20100106/NEWS05/1060345/KFC-pays-Indiana-cities-for-fiery-ads>

An animal rights group figures if KFC can use fire extinguishers and hydrants to promote chicken wings, it should be able to use city fire trucks to denounce cruelty to chickens. People for the Ethical Treatment for Animals has offered Indianapolis Mayor Greg Ballard \$7,500 in return for advertising space on the vehicles, after the fast-food chain announced this week that it will pay for city fire extinguishers in exchange for advertising on them. It also is paying for smoke detectors the city will give away:
<http://www.firehouse.com/topics/indiana/after-kfc-peta-wants-fire-truck-ads>

Leaders of the Colorado Senate have reached a tentative deal on a plan to fix the state pension fund. The major changes to the Public Employees' Retirement Association include increasing employee and employer contributions by 2 percent and reducing cost-of-living increases for current retirees from 3.5 percent this year, capping them at 2 percent. Senate President Brandon Shaffer and Senate Minority Leader Josh Penry said Tuesday the proposed deal offers security for state workers after their pension plan was rocked by the recent economic crisis:
http://durangoherald.com/sections/News/2010/01/06/Senators_reach_pensionreform_deal/

Clark County (NV) is facing a \$126 million deficit next year, on top of this year's \$70 million deficit. And with 65 percent of the county's \$1.5 billion budget dedicated to employee compensation, salaries will be targeted to make up some of that ground. The Clark County commissioners are all Democrats and have tended to be supported by unions, and, in turn, supportive of unions. A year ago, few would have expected the board to support moves that might cut into union jobs. The biggest target of

Tuesday's vote, however, was the firefighters union. "We can't continue paying \$200,000 a year," said Commissioner Steve Sisolak, referring to the average salary and benefits enjoyed last fiscal year by the county's 700 firefighters:

<http://www.lasvegassun.com/news/2010/jan/06/fellow-democrats-back-reids-plan-rein-union-worker/>

More on the above item from Clark County (NV) - Tuesday's vote by the Clark County Commission directing the staff to start working on a series of budget-cutting efforts is significant because it addresses some long-overdue issues. For example, county leaders will try to renegotiate expensive employee-union contracts and find ways to curb costs at deficit-plagued University Medical Center, the county's hospital. Tuesday's vote by the Clark County Commission directing the staff to start working on a series of budget-cutting efforts is significant because it addresses some long-overdue issues. For example, county leaders will try to renegotiate expensive employee-union contracts and find ways to curb costs at deficit-plagued University Medical Center, the county's hospital:

<http://www.lasvegassun.com/news/2010/jan/07/making-wise-choices/>

No rental tax. No police and fire layoffs. That much is clear. But a stream of Tucson (AZ) City Council motions and votes Tuesday left a lot of unanswered questions about Tucson's budget deficit and what is being done to fix it.

The council voted to lay off 89 full-time employees and 29 part-time employees, and leave vacant positions — including police officer and firefighter jobs — unfilled. City officials are not saying what departments will be hit by layoffs:

<http://www.azstarnet.com/metro/324244>

Manteca (CA) has received the first insurance company check to cover the cost of sending fire equipment to accidents involving non-residents. The \$792 check was from one insurance company and covered two separate accidents. Non-Manteca residents who cause traffic accidents — as well as anyone who crashes while driving under the influence — are having their insurance companies billed for the cost of the Manteca Fire Department's response. It is all a part of the effort to balance Manteca's municipal budget that has been hit hard by the drop in property and sales tax as well as continued state raids of local revenue:

<http://www.mantecabulletin.com/news/article/10576/>

Budget problems are forcing many fire departments around the Phoenix (AZ) valley to lay off people. But for El Mirage in the west valley, they just hired 6 new firefighters and the government is footing the bill:

http://www.myfoxphoenix.com/dpp/news/local/elmirage_firefighters_010810

The Reno (NV) City Council on Friday authorized the city manager to lay off up to 54 employees next month to help fill a \$6 million budget shortfall for this fiscal year and get a head start on an even bigger hole projected for next year's budget:

<http://www.examiner.com/x-25860-Reno-Headlines-Examiner~y2010m1d9-54-city-employees-to-be-laid-off>

As of Tuesday, Logansport (IN) firefighters and police officers could add crossing guard to their job descriptions. The 14 crossing guards previously employed by the city were let go two weeks ago as a result of budget cuts. Taking their place are on-duty firefighters and police officers. "The decision was made because we have to cut \$2 million, and we had to start somewhere," Mayor Mike Fincher said. "We are paying firemen and policemen, and they are public safety personnel."

http://www.pharostribune.com/local/local_story_005214912.html

Per the City of Reno (NV) Fire Chief: 16 employees could lose their jobs due to budgetary problems: <http://www.mynews4.com/story.php?id=8383>

Ten people will lose their jobs as Surprise (AZ) city officials slashed jobs in preparation for the fiscal year 2011 budget cuts. The city is eliminating 16.8 city jobs, but officials say ten of those positions are currently occupied:

<http://www.abc15.com/content/news/westvalley/surprise/story/Surprise-officials-cut-jobs-save-city-more-than-1/tim6YHLWn0-sXAxSXF7WDg.csp>

Beaufort (SC) city officials admit enforcement of "nuisance" codes -- which prohibit things like overgrown grass and shrubs, trash and other safety and health violations -- has been less than stellar. Beginning Monday, Beaufort's Fire Department will take over enforcement, putting firefighters in charge of identifying violations, helping residents remedy them and issuing citations when necessary, said city comptroller Mack Cook. The move will add another formal responsibility to the department, but fire marshal Lt. Daniel Byrne said the job dovetails with what firefighters do on a day-to-day basis. "They are already tuned to go out and look for these types of things that would pose a problem while fighting a fire," Byrne said. "It's part of our routine duties:

<http://www.islandpacket.com/1482/story/1092927.html>

In her first full day as Westbrook's (ME) mayor, Colleen Hilton defended her decision to fire three top administrators, including the fire chief. Hilton, who was sworn in Monday night, said Tuesday that the Fire and Rescue Department could face layoffs, and that she will explore opportunities to consolidate its services with surrounding communities:

<http://www.firerescue1.com/fire-products/fire-department-management/articles/737791-Maine-mayor-fires-chief-explores-layoffs/>

Fatal Milwaukee (WI) house fire prompts protests of city fire department budget cuts. Not even two weeks into a New Year, and already a second fire death is reported in Milwaukee. In both cases there were no working smoke detectors, but some wonder if there's another place to lay blame?

<http://www.fox6now.com/news/witi-100110-fatal-fire%2C0%2C5763453.story>

Up to 16 Reno (NV) firefighters could be notified today that they will be laid off, giving them 10 days to appeal the decision and triggering the process to close station 19 in the Somersett neighborhood by June 30:

<http://www.rgj.com/article/20100115/NEWS/100115001/1321/news/Reno-firefighters-could-get-layoff-notice-today>

Three Reno (NV) fire stations -- at Somerset, Skyline and Upper Stead -- could be closed starting July 1 if the Reno Fire Department is required to lay off 16 more firefighters amid Reno's budget crisis. The 16 firefighters would be in addition to layoffs last week of 12 firefighters, two fire inspectors and two clerical staff in the face of a \$6 million revenue shortfall for the year that ends June 30. Cutting 5 percent, as required for all other departments, would mean closing three fire stations rather than the one anticipated with 16 layoffs: www.rgj.com/article/20100114/NEWS/1140332

The Baltimore (MD) Fire Department, already forced to shutter fire stations daily to save money, could eliminate nearly 10 percent of its front-line force by laying off as many as 125 firefighters and closing a dozen companies this summer if dire budget projections come true, according to city and union officials: <http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/maryland/baltimore-city/baltimore-firefighters0124%2C0%2C6720705.story>

Talks of shuttering five fire stations have emerged as the San Francisco (CA) Fire Department looks to close a growing budget deficit. The fire department currently has a \$9 million deficit that needs to be closed by the end of June and is anticipating another \$13 million in cuts for the next fiscal year: <http://www.sfexaminer.com/local/Fire-station-closures-are-on-the-table-81398192.html>

Area fire officials identified a target Wednesday to shoot for as they look to consolidate services. Their proposal would consolidate the administrations of the Grass Valley (CA), Nevada City (CA) and Nevada County (CA) Consolidated fire districts, but leave operational staffs as they are. The plan would save about \$141,000, slicing current costs for administration and management among the three agencies of about \$945,000 to about \$804,000 annually. The plan also would eliminate the position held by Nevada City Fire Chief Sam Goodspeed. "Under this option, we'd have one supervision structure for all of our front line guys," said Grass Valley Chief Tony Clarabut. "Our application of policies will be the same, our leadership will be the same and supervision will be the same. Right now, there are three different sources for that." <http://www.theunion.com/article/20100114/NEWS/100119896/1066&ParentProfile%3D1053>

Cleveland (OH) has laid off more than 100 public safety employees, but the cuts can be undone if unions accept lower pay. Public Safety Director Martin Flask says 66 police officers, 37 firefighters and six emergency medical technicians were let go on Monday, and 46 police and fire supervisors were demoted. Flask says the moves can be reversed if unions representing those employees agree to concessions amounting to roughly 4 percent pay cuts. Union members previously rejected that idea: <http://www.firefighternation.com/forum/topics/cleveland-lays-off-over-100>

The State of Arizona is officially without a system to certify fire instructors or train firefighters. On Thursday, Jan. 7, following budget cuts announced by the Governor's office, the Arizona Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) announced suspensions in its programs and changes to office policies: <http://www.firefighternation.com/forum/topics/az-reels-as-fire-marshals>

Reno (NV) City Council members will hear a presentation Wednesday, discussing the idea of consolidating the city's police and fire chiefs into one, all-encompassing position – director of public safety:

http://dailysparktribune.com/pages/full_story/push?article-Reno+council+to+discuss+combining+police-+fire+heads%20&id=5592555&instance=secondary_stories_left_column

Phoenix area (AZ) Valley residents could see an impact on municipal services, including public safety, as several cities begin the year with more layoffs and budget cuts. This month, Surprise and Buckeye gave pink slips to a combined 28 workers while Avondale finished its third round of layoffs in December. Cities across the Valley are starting to craft their fiscal 2010-11 budgets, and for many the outlook is bleak:

<http://www.azcentral.com/news/articles/2010/01/19/20100119city-layoffs.html>

With Tulsa (OK) police and firefighters facing significant salary and benefit cuts, some say their major concern is the long-term impact to the pensions that will support them through retirement. Because they pay into a pension plan, neither police nor firefighters receive Social Security benefits for their city careers. "It is not like you are taking something that is just a one-time deal from these people. It is forever," said Police Capt. Ryan Perkins, a Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 93 trustee. "They will forever have less money, and that is a very serious concern to these guys." Mayor Dewey Bartlett is seeking pay cuts of 7.5 percent for police and 8.6 percent for firefighters. They are also being asked to surrender benefits in their contracts that would bring the paycheck impact to 13 percent for some firefighters and about 11.7 percent for police officers. Up to 135 police officers and 130 firefighters could be laid off if the unions don't approve Bartlett's plan; however, the final decision is subject to City Council approval:

<http://www.firerescue1.com/fire-products/fire-department-management/articles/746082-Okla-firefighters-face-salary-pension-cuts/>

Washoe County (NV) commissioners might try to block sporadic closures of one of two Reno fire stations in Stead by invoking a clause in the operating contract that prevents a reduction in service without county approval. Reno officials plan to cut firefighter strength from 324 to 262 by the end of the fiscal year in the face of severe tax revenue shortfalls. Twelve firefighters were laid off last week and up to 50 are expected to be retired by June 30:

<http://www.rgj.com/article/20100119/NEWS/100119056/1321/Washoe-commissioners-seek-to-prevent-Reno-firefighter-cuts>

About 200 firefighters wearing yellow T-shirts made a unified show of force Tuesday as Clark County (NV) commissioners received an advisory panel's report that includes recommendations to reduce firefighters' overtime pay and eliminate paramedic teams:

<http://www.lvrj.com/news/firefighters-oppose-report-calling-for-cuts-82143532.html>

Sparks (NV) City Council members are asking employees to again accept a pay freeze and concede benefits next fiscal year to prevent lay offs and reduce part of a \$1.7 million budget shortfall: <http://www.kolotv.com/home/headlines/82265952.html>

Interim Fire Chief Scott Huntley told the North Lyon County (NV) Fire Protection District Board one way to increase the fire district's revenue was to bill insurance company's for their responses to motor vehicle accidents, extrications and other fire related services:

<http://www.rgj.com/article/20100120/FERNLEY01/1200353/1306/FERNLEY/Fire-District-to-consider-response-fee-schedule>

In the midst of the current recession, departments around the country are looking at ways to save money and Tom Shand believes some of them may decide to refurbish an old apparatus rather than buy a new one:

<http://www.firehouse.com/topics/top-headlines/down-economy-refurbishing-apparatus-may-become-trend>

The six volunteer fire departments in the unincorporated areas of Lee County (AL) haven't received an increase in funds from those they serve since 1989. Those six are expected to cover the cost of their operations today with the same 1989 fire fee collected from each household in its district: \$25:

<http://www.firehouse.com/topics/alabama/ala-volunteers-face-funding-challenges>

Public Relations Nightmare Items:

When Milton Molina got a job as a Los Angeles County (CA) Fire Department inspector in 2003, he alleged his co-workers went to "nude bars" in county vehicles on county time. And when the Burbank resident tried to protect fellow employee Mary Villegas from sexual harassment at the department's hazardous materials facility in Sylmar, Molina alleges he became a victim of harassment and retaliation too:

http://www.mercurynews.com/ci_14122175?nclick_check=1

In the 18 months he has shared a station with paramedics, Austin (TX) fire Capt. Les McKay has watched them frequently speed away to emergencies sometimes several seconds before he and his crew are alerted to a fire. The time lapse has frustrated him:

<http://www.statesman.com/news/local/faster-alerts-for-ems-frustrates-fire-department-172604.html>

Even though the fire truck had the right-of-way, a woman and two children were injured with a Glendale fire truck and a car collided yesterday:

<http://www.firehouse.com/topics/top-headlines/civilians-injured-ariz-fire-truck-crash>

A former fire chief in Webster (NH) and a deputy fire chief in Concord pleaded guilty yesterday to misusing city-issued credit cards. Shawn Mitchell, 37, of Webster, had faced 25 charges in Concord for using city credit cards to buy fire equipment for Webster as well as for personal purchases. Mitchell also faces 16 charges in Webster for allegedly using a Webster credit card to buy online pornography:

<http://www.firehouse.com/topics/careers/nh-chief-misused-citys-credit-cards>

The Fairmount (CO) Fire Protection District has decided to discontinue the practice of having district taxpayers pay for cell phones and monthly cell service for the fire chief's wife and the wives of two other top department commanders. The practice, which had been going on for approximately seven years, adding up to thousands of dollars, came under scrutiny last month when a CBS4 investigation reviewed the way the department was spending money:

<http://cbs4denver.com/investigates/cell.phones.fairmount.2.1404634.html>

Three city firefighters face possible disciplinary action for mishandling the lighting of Vineland High School's annual bonfire, according to state fire officials. Vineland (NJ) Fire Chief Robert Pagnini said Monday the division's investigation found too many pallets were used in the bonfire and no accelerants should have been used to start it:

<http://www.app.com/article/20100112/NEWS03/100112008/1007/Firefighters-face-disciplinary-charges-for-pep-rally-bonfire-explosion-in-Vineland>

A 16-year-old Glen Ellen (CA) boy who suffered exhaustion while fighting a New Year's Eve house fire may have entered the structure while it was still burning, an action that goes against universally accepted safety protocols designed to protect young trainees from getting injured or killed:

<http://www.pressdemocrat.com/article/20100104/ARTICLES/100109825/1350?Title=Teen-s-injury-stirs-fire-safety-debate>

Glen Ellen's (CA) fire chief on Tuesday hotly refuted concerns that his department put the safety of a 16-year-old boy at risk during the battle to douse a raging New Year's Eve house fire:

<http://www.pressdemocrat.com/article/20100106/ARTICLES/100109753?Title=Chief-defends-using-16-year-old-to-fight-fire>

For the first time in city history, the Tempe (AZ) firefighters union has approved a vote of no confidence in the city manager, prompting letters to the City Council from the manager and union president that describe a troubled relationship:

<http://www.azcentral.com/community/tempe/articles/2010/01/08/20100108tr-vote0108.html>

The former chief of the Anderson (CA) Fire Protection District is under investigation for allegedly forging a certificate that bumped his annual pay by \$1,919, as well as the possibility that he gave himself a 5 percent raise to which he wasn't entitled:

<http://www.redding.com/news/2010/jan/04/former-anderson-fire-chief-investigated-for-of/>

Pittsburgh (PA) Fire Chief Darryl Jones yesterday said a small group of city firefighters facing drug and alcohol charges had created a "black eye" for their colleagues, and he vowed to fight substance abuse inside his department. The charged city firefighters are now facing a 'last chance' agreement to keep their jobs, while city officials are pushing for drug tests under new union contract:

<http://www.postgazette.com/pg/10007/1026400-53.stm>

A Pittsburgh (PA) Fire Bureau captain was arrested on the North Side and is the latest in a string of city firefighters facing drug and alcohol charges over the past few months: <http://www.firehouse.com/topics/careers/fourth-pittsburgh-ff-faces-drug-charges>

A Pittsburgh (PA) firefighter was among three men arrested early Saturday in what police say was a home invasion and assault that capped a night of drinking in the South Side:

<http://www.firehouse.com/topics/careers/pa-ff-suspended-alleged-duty-home-invasion-assault>

An elderly Pittsburgh (PA) woman says she called for help with her furnace, and when firefighters from Station 13 left her house, a bag with \$22,000 was gone. WTAE Channel 4's Shannon Perrine reported that the woman -- who is in her 80s -- said she called 911 when her furnace went out and she couldn't get it started again. Firefighters arrived right away and went into the basement and got the furnace working again, according to a Pittsburgh police report. The woman said that she remembers the firefighters said something like, 'It's time to party,' when they came back upstairs, according to the police report. She went to the basement and found that a bag with her life savings that she said she kept in the rafters over her furnace was gone.:

<http://www.firehouse.com/topics/news/woman-claims-pa-ffs-stole-life-savings>

Pittsburgh (PA) Fire Chief Darryl Jones is exasperated by all the recent arrests of off-duty firefighters for alcohol-related crimes:

http://www.pittsburghlive.com/x/pittsburghtrib/news/cityregion/s_661720.html

Grand Ridge (FL) mayor and volunteer firefighter Chris Wright may have cost the city up to \$1,000 Thursday, after he struck a pine tree while driving the town's newest fire truck on a non-dispatched call:

<http://www.firehouse.com/topics/news/fla-mayor-crashes-new-fire-truck>

A victim allegedly ignored by FDNY EMTs died of asthma attack. The victim's family is distraught and the question remains as to whether the EMTs could have prevented the death:

<http://www.firerescue1.com/fire-ems/articles/739470-Victim-allegedly-ignored-by-FDNY-EMTs-died-of-asthma-attack/>

Video shows fake fire inspector robbing businesses in DC area. The surveillance video is clear and in color. Police say it's of a crook claiming to be a fire or building inspector who gets open access inside businesses:

<http://www.firerescue1.com/fire-news/739497-video-shows-fake-fire-inspector-robbing-businesses-in-dc-area/>

No charges will be filed against a Newport Beach (CA) firefighter in the death of his girlfriend's Chihuahua, a police spokeswoman said. According to police, firefighter Aaron Reed in October had just bathed the 6-pound dog and was trying to blow-dry it when the animal bit him in the face. Investigators believe he threw it to the ground:

<http://www.firerescue1.com/fire-news/739105-calif-firefighter-cleared-in-chihuahuas-death/>

A New Hampshire volunteer firefighter resigns over a practical joke: Police yesterday identified a man who drove an old police cruiser and used an air horn to pull over another vehicle at the Lee Marketplace last week as a volunteer Epping firefighter who has since resigned:

<http://www.firerescue1.com/fire-products/fire-light-bars/articles/739851-NH-volunteer-firefighter-resigns-over-practical-joke/>

A federal judge ruled on Wednesday that New York City intentionally discriminated against black applicants to the Fire Department by continuing to use an exam that it had been told put them at a disadvantage. It was not a “one-time mistake or the product of benign neglect,” wrote the judge, Nicholas G. Garaufis of Federal District Court in Brooklyn. “It was a part of a pattern, practice and policy of intentional discrimination against black applicants that has deep historical antecedents and uniquely disabling effects.” A remedy will be decided on later. In his decision, the judge highlighted how “black and other minority firefighters have been severely underrepresented,” characterizing that as a “persistent stain on the Fire Department’s record.” <http://www.nytimes.com/2010/01/14/nyregion/14fire.html?em>

Jeannette (PA) council's first work session this year brought a heated discussion over the purchase of a new ladder truck for the fire company before the fire chief left the meeting with chest pains:

http://www.pittsburghlive.com/x/pittsburghtrib/news/westmoreland/s_661871.html

The City of Houston (TX) Mayor scolds the Houston Fire Chief for a ‘hurtful’ staff meeting that led to a female firefighter leaving again. On the day that Houston firefighter Jane Draycott returned to Station 54 for the first time after accusing her colleagues of harassment, she was met by the fire chief, his command staff, a psychologist and at least a dozen coworkers for what the chief dubbed a “team building” session. Instead, according to Draycott, it turned into an “insulting” and “demeaning” confrontation with her male peers that played out in front of the chief. On Thursday, Mayor Annise Parker called the episode a display of “poor judgment” on the part of Fire Chief Phil Boriskie and members of the command staff who were present. According to Draycott, the men aired rumors and grievances and questioned her sanity. The meeting on Wednesday eventually resulted with her walking off the job again: <http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/hotstories/6816557.html>

A white Philadelphia (PA) firefighter who settled a racial-discrimination case against the city last year filed another federal lawsuit yesterday, saying the fire commissioner and his top aides had retaliated against him for going to court:

<http://www.firerescue1.com/fire-products/fire-department-management/articles/740270-Philly-firefighter-files-racial-bias-suit/>

A top-ranking member of the Manassas Park (VA) police department has been accused of stealing a fire department battalion chief’s vehicle during an awards banquet for volunteer firefighters, Prince William County police said. Captain Travis D. Mosher was the Manassas Park police department's operations commander, but he resigned Sunday, the day after he turned himself in to police:

<http://www.firehouse.com/topics/top-headlines/va-police-captain-accused-stealing-fire-chiefs-suv>

Houston (TX) Fire Chief Phil Boriskie is stepping aside effective Friday and returning to the firehouse, he said today. mBoriskie, who has been with the department for nearly three decades, was appointed by former Mayor Bill White in 2004. The Houston Fire Department became a flashpoint for the city last year, first when a noose was reported in a station in February, then when apparently simmering problems between

men and women in Station 54 at Bush Intercontinental Airport erupted during the summer. Two women firefighters reported racist and sexist graffiti was scrawled in their quarters and on their belongings. Last week one of those women, Jane Draycott, returned to the station for the first time since the summer and was met by Boriskie, his command staff, a psychologist and at least a dozen coworkers for what the chief called a "team building" session. Draycott said it turned into a "demeaning" confrontation that included rumors and rumblings about her sanity. Parker said the episode displayed "poor judgment" by Boriskie and his senior staff:

<http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/metropolitan/6823739.html>

A Lowell (MA) firefighter was arrested and a police officer injured during a scuffle at the Village Smokehouse late Saturday night. Firefighter Donald Goyette, 39, was charged with disorderly conduct, resisting arrest and affray after he was removed from the restaurant about 11 p.m., by several Lowell police officers:

<http://www.firerescue1.com/fire-news/745241-mass-firefighter-arrested-cop-injured-in-scuffle/>

Iredell County (NC) investigators said they became suspicious of a junior firefighter in part because he was quick to respond to a number of fires. Now they've charged 17-year-old Mason Lee Missler for allegedly setting 14 fires in woods or fields over the last four months. Detectives said the teen gave a written statement admitting his involvement in all the fires:

<http://www.firehouse.com/topics/top-headlines/nc-jr-firefighter-charged-arson>

Smoke billowed out of the apparatus bay at Defiance (OH) Fire Department this afternoon when one of the department's two squads caught fire:

<http://www.crescent-news.com/news/article/4751357>

The Houston (TX) Police Department investigation into a July incident in which racist and sexist graffiti was scrawled all over the women's dormitory in a northwest Houston fire station is under review by the FBI, Mayor Annise Parker said Wednesday. Also Wednesday, the lead investigator in the city probe revealed that the two women who reported the incident are not suspects, contrary to rumors that developed when early aspects of the investigation became public last year:

<http://www.firehouse.com/topics/top-headlines/houston-fire-probe-hands-fbi>

The chief of the Cohanzie (CT) Fire Company suspended himself from duty after he was charged Friday with larceny for allegedly billing the town for teaching a course while at the same time collecting tuition from the students:

<http://www.firehouse.com/topics/top-headlines/conn-chief-charged-larceny>

San Francisco (CA) Supervisors target drunk firefighters: At today's Rules Committee meeting, supervisors will hear Supervisor Chris Daly's proposal to amend the City Charter to include a provision demanding termination of any firefighter found to be under the influence of alcohol while on duty:

http://www.sfexaminer.com/opinion/columns/melissa_griffin/Supe-targeting-drunken-firefighters-82217722.html

Uproar by residents of Las Flores Canyon and Rambla Pacifico (Los Angeles County, CA) over the plan may have derailed the county's consideration of using the Los Angeles County Fire Department Camp 8 site to temporarily house inmates who were burned out by the Station Fire: www.malibutimes.com/articles/2010/01/20/news/news1.txt

A Memphis (TN) firefighter doesn't want to talk about the felony charge he is facing. Wednesday, January 20, 2010, Lawrence Batiste waived his right to a preliminary hearing for the aggravated burglary charge he is facing. This is just the most recent criminal case against Batiste. He also has been arrested for domestic violence, assault, and resisting arrest, and on drug and alcohol related charges. Despite his arrest record, which includes a felony conviction, he got a job with the Memphis Fire Department:

<http://www.myeyewitnessnews.com/news/local/story/Questions-Surround-How-Convicted-Felon-Got-Job-As/f7DWeQS2C0W-j1Yn762mLQ.csp>

A retired Scranton (PA) city firefighter accused of torching an East Scranton apartment building in 2008, displacing 14 people and sending two tenants to the hospital, tried unsuccessfully to collect more than \$215,000 in insurance on the property, investigators said Thursday. Thomas S. Gervasi, 56, of Madison Twp., surrendered Thursday afternoon to state police at Dunmore and was charged with multiple counts of arson and related felonies in the fire that swept through 1021 Mark Ave. and spread to another multifamily home on June 17, 2008:

<http://www.firehouse.com/topics/top-headlines/retired-pa-ff-arrested-arson>

A Brooklyn (NY) federal judge wants to impose a temporary hiring quota on the FDNY to make up for what he has called an "intentional" pattern of discrimination against black and Hispanic firefighter applicants. Under the order handed down yesterday, Judge Nicholas Garaufis said he wants the city to hire two black and one Hispanic candidate for every five applicants who pass the test until there are 293 minorities added to the ranks of the FDNY. The judge based his figure on the number of blacks and Hispanics who the government has estimated would have been hired if the department's 1999 and 2002 examinations were not discriminatory:

<http://www.firehouse.com/topics/top-headlines/judge-orders-fdny-hiring-quota>

A series of conversations recorded in the weeks after last year's wildfire show police officers were concerned that William Bailey, the city of North Myrtle Beach (SC) public safety director, would try to blame them for mistakes that were made that night. The recordings also show that officers and city officials knew the public had been given misleading information during a news conference the morning after the fire:

<http://www.thesunnews.com/news/local/story/1277831.html>

On the first day of new leadership in the Houston (TX) Fire Department, two captains have been moved from a firehouse at the center of a criminal harassment investigation, KPRC Local 2 Investigates reported Friday. Acting Fire Chief Rick Flanagan told Local 2 that, "New leadership was needed," prompting him to transfer two captains from Intercontinental Air Rescue Station 54. In a written statement, Flanagan said, "These transfers were administered by the chief in order to provide for new leadership at the station for the betterment of the department and to assure the

best service to citizens." Senior Capt. Isidro Tamez and Capt. Brian Williamson will report to the training academy Monday for training to work at a non-airport neighborhood fire station:

<http://web4.firehouse.com/topics/top-headlines/houston-captains-moved-after-scandal>

Positive Public Relations Items:

Two nurses and an off-duty Weymouth (MA) firefighter sprang into action when a retired Hingham police officer collapsed after coming off the ice during a hockey game at the Pilgrim Skating Arena. One of the nurses and the firefighter used CPR to keep retired police Lt. Joseph McCracken, 65, alive with blood flowing to his heart and brain. The second nurse used a defibrillator to jump-start McCracken's heart:

<http://www.firerescue1.com/fire-products/aeds/articles/740281-Off-duty-firefighter-helps-save-retired-cop-in-Mass-hockey-game/>

Sierra Vista (AZ) Firefighters are decreasing the carbon footprint:

<http://www.svherald.com/content/jason-doherty/2010/01/20/firefighters-decreasing-carbon-footprint>

Sixteen men and boys with ties to the Monroe (WA) Fire Department took part in the Polar Bearcat Plunge in Monroe on New Year's Day. The annual fire department event might add a charitable function in 2011, when firefighters and their friends take the plunge yet again: www.heraldnet.com/article/20100119/NEWS01/701199901/-1/news01

Six Tempe (AZ) firefighters ran in the PF Chang's Rock n' Roll half marathon Sunday in honor of fallen fellow Tempe firefighter Skylar Stock. Stock, 27, died early in December during a hunting trip in the Blue Ridge area. A pine tree broke during a storm and landed on his tent while he and a friend were sleeping:

<http://www.azcentral.com/news/articles/2010/01/22/20100122tr-firefighthers0127.html>

Los Angeles County (CA) Firefighters freed a horse Saturday that had become stuck in mud from the recent storms in Rowland Heights:

http://www.whittierdailynews.com/news/ci_14253396

Cherry Valley Township (IL) Firefighters assist a horse from a pond:

<http://web4.firehouse.com/topics/top-headlines/ill-ffs-help-horse-pond>

Fire sprinklers save a Houston (TX) store from burning to the ground:

<http://web4.firehouse.com/topics/top-headlines/sprinkler-saves-texas-store>

Training & Safety Related Items:

Twenty (20) suggestions to keep you safe in 2010 and beyond:

<http://thekitchentable.firerescue1.com/2010/01/twenty-ten.html>

A Denver (CO) Firefighter is hit by a bullet while fighting a fire:

<http://www.firehouse.com/topics/top-headlines/denver-ff-hit-bullet-during-fire>

and <http://www.kdvr.com/news/kdvr-garage-fire-011010%2C0%2C6900540.story>

'It seemed like an eternity' – A Cincinnati (OH) Firefighter's Mayday call was met with silence on radio:

<http://news.cincinnati.com/article/20100114/NEWS01/1150368/1055/NEWS/+It+seemed+like+an+eternity+>

Ohio firefighters' mayday call met with radio silence: A woman was trapped on the third floor of the burning apartment building at 4409 Glenway Ave. That's all firefighter Kevin Phillips and Lt. Tim Pride knew when they went inside the building that was so smoky, they said they couldn't see their hands in front of their faces. The woman made it to safety down a firetruck ladder from her balcony before they got to her. Once inside, the two veteran Cincinnati firefighters became trapped by a burning stairwell. While looking for a way out, Phillips, 39, tumbled face first down six stairs, knocking his helmet and air mask off. He choked in the thick, black smoke, before grabbing and holding the air mask to his face. "Mayday, mayday, mayday," Pride, 49, called out over his fire radio. The district fire chief in command of the scene should have responded immediately. Instead, Pride was met with silence. "Mayday, mayday, mayday," Pride called out again. A rescue squad on the way to the fire heard Pride and responded, but it appears from a recording of radio traffic from the Jan. 7 fire that it took nearly three minutes before the district chief on scene set a rescue in motion. Pride, a 25-year veteran of the force, finally helped Phillips to safety, guiding him to the third floor where they escaped via a balcony and down a fire truck ladder:

<http://www.firerescue1.com/fire-products/communications/radios/articles/746088-Ohio-firefighters-mayday-call-met-with-radio-silence/>

Experts looked back on the 2009 ladder truck crash that took the life of a veteran Boston (MA) firefighter at the Fire Department Safety Officers Apparatus Symposium in Orlando, Florida, just ten days removed from the one-year anniversary of the tragedy. An investigation found that catastrophic brake failure was to blame for the crash and the department's apparatus maintenance division -- or lack there of -- was put under a microscope. The report found there was no professional fleet manager or maintenance technicians, roles of the department's maintenance division members were not clearly defined, there was no effective vehicle inspection program and the division lacked a sense of ownership and responsibility for the apparatus:

<http://www.firehouse.com/topics/top-headlines/boston-crash-focus-fdsoa-symposium>

The roof of the Colusa (CA) Fire Department has been collapsing for years, but Wednesday's storm was the final straw. The urgent need to get the roof replaced has even drawn the attention of U.S. Sen. Barbara Boxer, city officials said Tuesday:

<http://www.colusa-sun-herald.com/news/roof-4184-collapsing-fire.html>

Volunteers are a necessity in mountain fire departments, and chiefs in Lake and Chaffee counties (Colorado) say they depend on staff and volunteer training from the fire science program at Colorado Mountain College. The college has long offered fire

science courses in Summit and Eagle counties and has gradually grown the offerings through its sites in Lake and Chaffee counties since 2003. Classes such as Firefighter I and II, Wildland Firefighting and Driver Operator are offered in Buena Vista or in Leadville:

<http://www.summitdaily.com/article/20100124/NEWS/100129904/1078&ParentProfile%3D1055>

A Vancouver (WA) Fire Department ladder truck crew had a narrow escape early Saturday when someone hurled a large rock into the massive vehicle's driver-side windshield. None of the four firefighters on board was injured, according to Vancouver firefighter-spokesman Jim Flaherty. But he said the incident easily could have turned out worse:

<http://web4.firehouse.com/topics/top-headlines/vandal-hurled-rock-wash-ladder-trucks-windshield>

- And a related story from Vancouver with more info:

<http://www.krem.com/news/northwest-news/Vandals-leave-Vancouver-with-1-ladder-truck-for-entire-city-82565492.html>

Prosecutors say a suspicious package left outside the Longview city hall of a small southwestern Washington town that contained feces was left by a disgruntled former firefighter: <http://www.king5.com/news/local/82513302.html>

General Fire Service Related Items:

Prosecutors say a Boston (MA) man has been charged with robbing a city fire station while firefighters were out battling a three-alarm blaze:

http://www.myfoxboston.com/dpp/news/crime_files/mug_shots/prosecutors-say-roxbury-man-tried--to-rob-firehouse-during-fire

The final statistics are in, and 2009 was a mild year for wildfires in California:

http://www.sgvtribune.com/california/ci_14136291

Future Firefighting students learn the ropes at the 20th annual Heartland fire academy (San Diego County, CA): <http://eastcountymagazine.org/node/2636>

The volunteer fire department in Torrance County (NM) was broken into late last year and the situation has put a lot of people in danger. Although investigators said they are closer to finding the person responsible, one person was arrested in connection to the case. Armenio Gonzales faced a Bernalillo County judge Sunday. He was arrested when Albuquerque police officers showed up to his home in northeast Albuquerque and found three fire suits including jackets pants helmets and boots all valued at more than \$6,000: <http://web4.firehouse.com/topics/top-headlines/nm-dept-still-suffering-burglary>

Despite ice crystals on her cheeks and ice encasing her helmet and visor, Omaha (NE) Capt. Kim Beaudin said things could be worse. It's hard to imagine how. Omaha's toughest working conditions Thursday may have been those faced by firefighters as

they sprayed water and wrestled with balky equipment during one of the worst winter storms the country has seen in a while:

<http://www.nptelegraph.com/articles/2010/01/08/news/state/60005174.txt>

If the four communities that comprise the Hurricane Valley (UT) Fire District are unable to reach an agreement next week on how it will operate in the future, then the very district they all say is in their best interest may cease to exist:

<http://www.thespectrum.com/article/20100109/NEWS01/100109001/Fire-district-faces-big-decision>

A Fresno (CA) man was arrested Tuesday on suspicion of stealing emergency equipment twice from fire engines parked on the 400 block of Roosevelt Avenue in central Fresno. Fire spokesman Gary Eberhard said the man, who lives on Roosevelt, stole a hand-held communications radio from a fire engine parked for a medical aid call December 14: <http://www.fresnobee.com/local/crime/story/1782048.html>

As requested by Councilmember Bob Lingl, Lompoc (CA) Fire Chief Linual White presented a resolution to submit a "Request for Proposal" to Santa Barbara County for the provision of fire services to the City. After decades of under funded fire protection, and in the hope of increased revenues, the Council approved the resolution:

<http://www.examiner.com/x-23530-Central-Coast-Democrat-Examiner-y2010m1d21-Lompoc-City-Council-requests-proposal-from-the-County-to-take-over-fire-department>

Active full-time and volunteer firefighters in California who become ill with cancer can claim their disease is job-related without proving it, as was the case of a Riverside firefighter whose funeral was last week. California is one of two dozen states that presumes firefighters who become ill with all cancers and leukemia get the disease as an occupational consequence. The presumption, enacted more than 20 years ago, lasts up to five years after termination of service. Other firefighter presumptions in California's labor code are heart conditions, hernia, pneumonia, tuberculosis, blood-borne infectious diseases, meningitis and methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus, better known as MRSA:

http://www.pe.com/localnews/inland/stories/PE_News_Local_W_cancer16.38fdb75.html

A Milford, Connecticut woman says aerial ladder testing by the fire department is trespassing. She said on occasion the aerial truck has violated her air space and is a safety concern:

<http://www.firerescue1.com/fire-products/apparatus-accessories/articles/746057-Conn-woman-says-aerial-ladder-testing-is-trespassing/>

The Eugene (OR) City Council on Wednesday endorsed the administrative merger of the Eugene and Springfield fire departments, which is to take place during the next five months. The Springfield City Council last fall accepted the merger proposal from Groves and Springfield Fire Chief Dennis Murphy. Under the plan, Groves will become fire chief of both departments after Murphy retires on June 30. Other vacant top jobs will be consolidated and filled by Springfield or Eugene fire department administrators. In that way the departments would not have to hire new employees, thereby saving both cities a combined \$629,988 in the first year and \$851,275 the year after, according

to a study commissioned by both cities and released last year. “It’s not just saving money,” Groves told Mayor Kitty Piercy and councilors. “It’s being more efficient:” <http://www.registerguard.com/csp/cms/sites/web/news/cityregion/24374992-41/fire-springfield-eugene-chief-groves.csp>

Seasonal fire crews routinely spend long days hiking up steep hills and clearing brush. They often work in sweltering temperatures and sleep on the ground amid poison oak. There's plenty of overtime but no benefits or guarantees of year-round employment. Yet when the Ventura County (CA) Fire Department announced seasonal openings for 2010, more than 400 applications flooded in for a handful of jobs, officials said. That's an increase of about 25 percent over last year. While the economic downturn appeared to play a minor role in the increased demand, spots on the seasonal hand crew have always been competitive, largely because it is seen as a steppingstone to full-time firefighting work that is even harder to get: <http://www.firerescue1.com/urban-interface/articles/745500-Hundreds-apply-for-a-few-seasonal-jobs-on-Calif-fire-crew/>

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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