



## ***FIRE & EMS NEWS***

**March 13, 2009**

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**W**elcome 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.

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### **FIREFIGHTER PREPARATION WORKSHOP:**

- **ENTRY LEVEL FIREFIGHTER WORKSHOP!!!**

**Las Positas College “Multimedia Theater” - Building 2400  
March 29, 2009 - 8AM – 5PM**

**Keynote Speaker: Battalion Chief Paul Lepore, Long Beach Fire Department**

**\$10 (Lunch & Certificate included)**

**TOPICS WILL INCLUDE:**

- Being the ideal candidate
- Chief’s interviews
- Code and honor
- Interviews
- Applications and resumes
- Education
- Paramedic school
- Physical fitness
- Preparation for the job
- Reserve and volunteer programs
- Rookie expectations

**\* Reservations are Required - By March 23, 2009\***

**Contact: [robertpatlas@comcast.net](mailto:robertpatlas@comcast.net)  
[rjohansen@laspositascollege.edu](mailto:rjohansen@laspositascollege.edu)**

***Selected participants will receive a practice interview given by Certified Oral Board Raters***

***Bring your resume!***

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

March 5, 2009  
Contact: USFA Press Office, 301-447-1853

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **U.S. FIRE ADMINISTRATION ANNOUNCES CHANGE IN APPLICATION PERIODS**

The U.S. Fire Administration's (USFA) National Fire Academy (NFA) has changed the application period for On-Campus course deliveries and the Executive Fire Officer Program. Applications from individuals wishing to attend classes on the NFA campus in Emmitsburg, Maryland, will now be accepted during the following timeframes each year:

**First Semester Classes:** April 15 – June 15

**Second Semester Classes:** October 15 – December 15

“We recognize that this Nation’s fire and emergency services personnel are extremely busy and that their time is valuable” said Acting NFA Superintendent Dr. Kirby Kiefer. “We want to be more responsive to the needs of the applicants and the departments for which they serve by completing the application and notification process earlier, thereby affording the extra time necessary for adequate planning.”

For FY2010 classes, potential students should submit their applications during the April 15 – June 15, 2009 timeframe to be considered for classes scheduled for delivery October 1, 2009 – March 31, 2010. To be considered for classes scheduled for delivery April 1 – September 30, 2010, potential students should submit their applications during the October 15 – December 15, 2009 timeframe.

The Executive Fire Officer Program (EFOP) application deadline has also changed. Effective with this year the application deadline is June 15 of each year to be considered for the next fiscal year’s program. For this year, interested applicants should submit their application by the June 15, 2009 deadline in order to be considered for the FY2010 EFOP.

Application, course schedule, and EFOP information is available on the NFA website at [www.usfa.dhs.gov/nfa](http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/nfa).

*The USFA reminds everyone to have a comprehensive fire protection plan that includes smoke alarms, residential sprinklers and practicing a home fire escape plan*

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# **FIRE SERVICE TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES IN THE MONTEREY (CA) AREA:**

## **2009-2010 SCHEDULE OF COURSES**

### **CALIFORNIA FIRE ACADEMY AT MONTEREY BAY**

2642 Colonel Durham St.

Seaside CA 93955

(831) 646-4240 [nrodda@mpc.edu](mailto:nrodda@mpc.edu)

#### **August 2009**

10 to 14 Fire Prevention 1A  
17 to 21 Fire Command 2A  
17 to 21 Fire Prevention 1C  
24 to 28 Fire Prevention 2A  
31 to 9/4 Fire Instructor 2A

#### **September 2009**

14 to 18 Fire Command 1A  
21 to 25 EMT Instructor Orientation  
28 to 10/2 Fire Management 2A

#### **October 2009**

12 to 16 Fire Management 2E  
19 to 23 Fire Command 2C  
26 to 30 Fire Investigation 2A

#### **November 2009**

2 to 6 Fire Instructor 2B  
16 to 20 Fire Prevention 2B  
30 to 12/4 Fire Investigation 1A

#### **December 2009**

7 to 11 Fire Prevention 3A

#### **January 2010**

11 to 15 Fire Prevention 1B  
25 to 29 ICS 300/400

#### **February 2010**

1 to 5 Fire Instructor 1A  
1 to 5 Fire Management 2D  
22 to 26 Fire Command 2B  
22 to 26 Fire Command 1C

#### **March 2010**

1 to 5 Fire Command 2E  
8 to 12 Fire Instructor 1B  
15 to 19 Fire Management 2C  
15 to 19 Fire Command 1B  
22 to 26 Fire Instructor 2C

#### **April 2010**

12 to 16 Fire Command 2D  
19 to 23 Fire Management 2B  
19 to 23 Fire Prevention 3B  
26 to 30 Fire Instructor 1C

#### **May 2010**

3 to 7 Fire Command 1C  
10 to 14 Fire Prevention 2C  
17 to 21 Fire Investigation 1B

#### **June 2010**

7 to 11 Fire Investigation 2B  
14 to 18 Fire Management 1  
21 to 25 Fire Instructor 3

**Please call to register as early as possible to facilitate planning.**

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## **PROMOTIONAL PREPARATION COURSES:**

**B**y popular demand, I have scheduled some 2 day promotional preparation courses over the next few months around the State:

- Thursday **May 7** and Friday **May 8**, 2009 – **Union City, CA**
- Monday **July 27** and Tuesday **July 28**, 2009 – **Petaluma, CA**

*Class sizes are 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:

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

**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.

**Register:** Go to [www.code3firetraining.com](http://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](mailto:sprziborowski@aol.com) for more information.

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

Union City, CA		Petaluma, CA	
<b>Dates:</b>	Thursday May 7 <u>and</u> Friday May 8, 2009	<b>Dates:</b>	Monday July 27 <u>and</u> Tuesday July 28, 2009
<b>Location:</b>	<b>Union City Fire Department Training Center Classroom</b> 33555 Central Ave. (behind Station 1) Union City, CA 94587	<b>Location:</b>	<b>Petaluma Community Center</b> 320 North McDowell Blvd. Petaluma, CA 94954
<b>Cost:</b>	\$220.00 for the two-day session	<b>Cost:</b>	\$220.00 for the two-day session

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## **FIREFIGHTER SAFETY INFORMATION:**

### **AFC MEMBER ALERT: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact: IAFC Communications Department  
703-293-0911 • [www.iafc.org](http://www.iafc.org)

**TO:** IAFC Members

**FROM:** Chief Larry Grorud, IAFC President  
Chief Billy Goldfeder, SHS Section Chair

**DATE:** February 27, 2009

**RE:** Fire/EMS Survival Alert

We know all fire chiefs and most members of the fire/EMS service are focused on budget and related issues these days. With some very recent firefighter line-of-duty deaths, it's also important for all members of the fire/EMS service to keep a **strong focus and redouble efforts** on issues related to firefighter injury and LODD prevention. Without question, the most valuable component of any community's fire/EMS service are the firefighters and EMS personnel who provide that service, and protecting those personnel must be the #1 priority. Serious development of applicable policies and procedures are the basis of an effective risk-management program. Once established, training on those policies and strict enforcement have proven to be effective in reducing injury and death to firefighters and EMS personnel.

So far in 2009, just **some** fire/EMS LODDs include:

- Several firefighter LODDs due to medical emergencies
- One firefighter struck and killed by backing apparatus at a working fire
- One firefighter killed in a crash between apparatus and a firefighter's POV
- An apparatus MVA vs. structure returning from an incident
- One firefighter electrocuted at MVA scene
- Two firefighters killed when they fell from the bucket of an aerial device during training
- One firefighter shot at an EMS incident scene
- Two firefighters killed in a mobile-home fire
- One firefighter killed in an apparatus crash while responding to a reported structural fire

Each of these tragic line-of-duty deaths should be evaluated for applicability in our own departments and companies. Because they're so recent, there are no official reports available yet, but that shouldn't prevent us from learning what we can from what we know.

The following are resources that can immediately be accessed by fire chiefs, fire officers, firefighters and EMS personnel to conduct reviews to minimize the chances for our personnel getting injured or killed in the line of duty:

#### **Mobile-home LODD investigations:**

- [Fire Fighter \(Lieutenant\) Killed and One Fire Fighter Injured During Mobile Home Fire– Pennsylvania](#)
- [Recreational Vehicle Fire Claims the Life of One Fire Fighter and Injures Two Other Fire Fighters - Arkansas](#)

#### **MVA incidents including tanker rollovers, crashes, etc.:**

- [Fire Fighter Dies in a Tanker Crash – Louisiana](#)
- [Junior Fire Fighter Dies and Three Volunteer Fire Fighters are Injured in a Tanker Crash – Alabama](#)
- [Assistant Chief Killed When Struck by Tractor-Trailer While Operating at a Motor Vehicle Crash – North Carolina](#)
- [Deputy Fire Chief Dies When Struck by Motorized Water Monitor that “Launched” Off Aerial Ladder Truck – Pennsylvania](#)
- This report includes a link to the NIOSH Safety Advisory: [Improper Set-up of Aerial Ladders with a Locking Waterway May Put Fire Fighters at Risk](#)

#### **Additional emergency-vehicle safety resources:**

- [Safety Week: Vehicle Safety Resources](#)
- [www.iafc.org/vehiclesafety](http://www.iafc.org/vehiclesafety)
- [www.iaff.org/hs/EVSP/home.html](http://www.iaff.org/hs/EVSP/home.html)
- [USFA: Emergency Vehicle Safety](#)
- [www.ResponderSafety.com](http://www.ResponderSafety.com)

### **Recent CVD medical emergency reports and NIOSH alerts:**

- [Fire Fighter Dies While Performing Exterior Fire Suppression at a Large Machine Shed Fire - Illinois](#)
- [Fire Fighter Trainee Suffers Sudden Cardiac Death During Strenuous Training Drill – Georgia](#)
- [Fire Fighter Suffers Sudden Cardiac Death After Responding to Two Calls - Kansas](#)
- NIOSH CVD Alert: [Preventing Fire Fighter Fatalities Due to Heart Attacks and Other Sudden Cardiovascular Events](#)

### **Recent structure-fire reports and related NIOSH alerts:**

- [Fire Fighter and Trapped Resident Die and a Lieutenant is Injured following a Duplex Fire - Pennsylvania](#)
- [Fire Fighter Dies and Captain is Injured During a Civilian Rescue Attempt at a Residential Structure Fire – Georgia](#)
- [A Mutual Aid Captain and Fire Fighter Die in a Remodeled Residential Structure Fire - Texas](#)
- NIOSH Alert: [Preventing Injuries and Deaths of Fire Fighters Due to Truss System Failures](#)

### **Fire Fighter Fatality Investigation and Prevention Program:**

- [Leading Recommendations for Preventing Fire Fighter Fatalities, 1998–2005](#)

### **Fire/EMS safety in possible act-of-violence responses:**

- [A Must: Staging Areas For Violent Crime Scenes](#)
- [Career Lieutenant Killed and Fire Fighter Injured By Gunfire While Responding To Medical Assistance Call – Kentucky](#)

### **Additional sites for related LODD prevention:**

- [Safety Week Resources](#)
- [www.iafc.org/wfi](http://www.iafc.org/wfi)
- [www.healthy-firefighter.org](http://www.healthy-firefighter.org)
- [www.everyonegoeshome.com](http://www.everyonegoeshome.com)
- [www.firefighternearmiss.com/Links](http://www.firefighternearmiss.com/Links)
- [www.firefighterclosecalls.com](http://www.firefighterclosecalls.com)

For more information and help related to the prevention of any firefighter/EMS personnel LODD, visit the [IAFC's Safety, Health and Survival Section's website](#).

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## **FIRE SERVICE TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES:**

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

### **Seminar #1:**

- **Thursday, March 19, 2009 — "Strategy, Tactics and Survival in the Wildland/Urban Interface": Presented by Battalion Chief John P.Harris (ret.), Los Angeles County Fire Department**

Wildland/urban interface firefighting and structure protection can be a very dangerous assignment and is probably the most misunderstood tactically. Attendees will be exposed to tactics that are not in wildland firefighting study materials and exposed to unique concepts utilizing LCES as a baseline decision making process to commit or not to commit to structure protection. Attendees will also be exposed to survival techniques that are not being taught anywhere in the fire service. Basic wildland fire fighting will cover hose lays, structure protection, air operations, basic line construction, dozer operations, assignment of resources for the first captain and battalion chief, up to 40-50 units. Unified Command will be presented/demonstrated utilizing local, state and federal wildland resources. ICS may be discussed but this is NOT an ICS class. The objective of this presentation is ALL who attend will be able to perform safely and effectively on a wind driven wildland/urban interface fire the following day.

For details on this seminar, go to: [www.firenuggets.com/seminarbaypro09harris.pdf](http://www.firenuggets.com/seminarbaypro09harris.pdf)

### **Seminar #2:**

- **Thursday, October 8, 2009 — "Duty - Pride - Tradition": Presented by Chief J.P. "Mac" McCastland (ret.), Oak Lawn Fire Department, and Deputy District Chief Edmund J. Enright (ret.), Chicago Fire Department**

This seminar will center on the concept of similarities that are found both on the Fireground and the Battleground. In both arenas strong leadership is the key to a successful operation; this leadership can be at any level of the company. Using a series of photos and personal beliefs, the presenters will instill DUTY – PRIDE and TRADITION as words to be included in the personal ethos of the audience.

For details on this seminar, go to: [www.firenuggets.com/seminarbaypro09enright.pdf](http://www.firenuggets.com/seminarbaypro09enright.pdf)

### **Seminar #3:**

- **Thursday, December 3, 2009 — "Truck Company Operations: Keeping Badges Off the Wall": Presented by Deputy District Chief Steve Chikerotis, Chicago Fire Department**



Chief Steve Chikerotis will deliver a colorful PowerPoint presentation loaded with fire case studies and lessons learned from his personal experiences in 30 years of crawling hallways with the Chicago Fire Department. Each incident is brought to life through exciting pictures, video, and audio. Each story reinforces powerful lessons learned. Topics covered includes Truck Operations, Coordinated Tactics, Risk Management, Reading Smoke, Building Construction & Collapse, Fireground Tactics, Rescue Triage, Search & Rescue Principles, Vent-Enter-Search, Ladder Rescue, Thermal Image Camera Search, Flashover/Backdraft, Communications and Accountability, Commanding the May Day, and RIT Rescue. This class will be enjoyed by the seasoned veteran as well as the new recruit. The goal of the class is to prevent firefighter deaths through safer and more effective fireground tactics.

**For details on this seminar, go to:**

[www.firenuggets.com/seminarbaypro09chikerotis.pdf](http://www.firenuggets.com/seminarbaypro09chikerotis.pdf)

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

**Carr Convention Center**  
4400 Rosewood Drive  
Pleasanton, CA 94588

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## **FIRE SAFETY INFO FROM THE U.S. FIRE ADMINISTRATION:**



Alcohol intoxication may increase the risk of starting a fire by impairing one's judgment and coordination. A smoker, under the influence of alcohol, is more susceptible to falling asleep and dropping a lit cigarette on upholstery or clothing. The effect of alcohol may cause a failure to notice the smell of smoke or hear a smoke alarm, and escaping from a fire can be hampered by the loss of motor coordination and mental clarity, even when warning signs are heeded. It is possible to minimize fire risk by increasing the awareness of those who drink and those who are surrounded by regular drinkers. [Understand the dangers and don't become a fire statistic!](#)

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## **FIRE SERVICE SAFETY & PUBLIC EDUCATION INFO:**

The **Home Fire Sprinkler Coalition** is offering a "**Free Program**" to help Fire Departments make home fire sprinklers a focus for outreach activities and public fire education. You can sign up for the **FREE "Built For Life Fire Department"** program and be the first to receive the

new "**Fire and Sprinkler Side-by-Side**" Instructional Kit at the website : <http://www.homefiresprinkler.org/FS/FSBFLFD.html> - If we can be of further assistance, Please feel free to contact me with the information located below!

Bruce Lecair, Western Regional Manager - National Fire Sprinkler Association  
 25417 Hyacinth Street  
 Corona, Ca. 92883  
 Cell Phone 1 (951) 805-8992  
 Home/Office 1 (951) 277-3517  
 Fax 1 (951) 277-3199  
[lecair@nfsa.org](mailto:lecair@nfsa.org)

Fire Sprinklers Save Lives, Property and Water - Pass it On!

**About the National Fire Sprinkler Association:**

Established in 1905, the National Fire Sprinkler Association (NFSA) is the voice of the fire sprinkler industry. NFSA leads the drive to get life-saving and property protecting fire sprinklers into all buildings; provides support and resources for its members – fire sprinkler contractors, manufacturers and suppliers; and educates authorities having jurisdiction on fire protection issues. Headquartered in Patterson, N.Y., NFSA has regional operations offices throughout the country. [www.nfsa.org](http://www.nfsa.org).

**FIRE SERVICE TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES IN THE SACRAMENTO (CA) AREA:**

***Sacramento Regional Fire Training schedule***

<b>COURSE</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>DATES</b>
<i>Fire Service Leadership Summit</i>	<i>Oroville, Ca (530) 752-6399</i>	<i>MARCH 23-26, 2009</i>
<i>FIRE COMMAND 2A</i>	<i>UC Davis FD (530)752-1236</i>	<i>MARCH 30-APRIL 3, 2009</i>
<i>MASTERING THE FIRE SERVICE ASSESSMENT CENTER</i>	<i>EL DORADO HILLS FD <a href="http://www.TrainFirefighters.com">www.TrainFirefighters.com</a></i>	<i>MARCH 31-APRIL 3,2009</i>
<i>FIRE COMMAND 2E</i>	<i>N. CA. PUBLIC SAFETY (916) 640-1420</i>	<i>APRIL 6-9, 2009</i>
<i>ROSS DISPATCHER</i>	<i>OES HEADQUARTERS (916) 640-1420</i>	<i>APRIL 20-24, 2009</i>
<i>Driver Operator 1A</i>	<i>N. CA. PUBLIC SAFETY (916) 640-1420</i>	<i>APRIL 27-MAY 1, 2009</i>
<i>S-290, Wildland Fire Behavior</i>	<i>WOODLAND FD (530) 661-5860</i>	<i>APRIL 27-MAY 1, 2009</i>
<i>FIRE COMMAND 2D</i>	<i>N. CA. PUBLIC SAFETY (916) 640-1420</i>	<i>MAY 4-7, 2009</i>
<i>S-390, Wildland Fire Behavior</i>	<i>N. CA. PUBLIC SAFETY (916) 640-1420</i>	<i>MAY 5-8, 2009</i>
<i>Driver Operator 1B</i>	<i>N. CA. PUBLIC SAFETY (916) 640-1420</i>	<i>MAY 18-22, 2009</i>

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# **FIREFIGHTER PREPARATION WORKSHOP:**

**ANNOUNCING THE MARCH 21, 2009**

## **Firefighter's ABC's Entry Level Workshop**

### **DOLCE HAYES MANSION**

200 Edenvale Avenue, San Jose, CA 95136 (408) 226-3200

**Registration: 7AM - 7:45AM • Entry Level Workshop: 8AM - 5PM**

***SEATING IS LIMITED TO THE FIRST 100 REGISTRANTS!***

Application & \$30 fee must be submitted no later than Friday, March 6, 2009.

### ***Sponsored By:***

- **FIREFIGHTER DIVERSITY RECRUITMENT COUNCIL**
- **NATIONAL RECRUIT DATABASE**
- **ENTRY LEVEL WORKSHOPS**

### ***Open to all Aspiring Firefighters & High School Students***

This **Entry Level Workshop** is of immense value to future firefighters. It has been conducted for a number of years throughout the nation and has contributed to the successful recruitment of many fire service candidates. In-depth coverage of critically important topics includes:

- The Fire Service as "The Career of Choice"
- Written & Physical Ability Testing
- Oral Interviewing Techniques
- The Personal History Questionnaire and Background Process
- Building a Compelling Resume
- Resources to Help Increase Your Success
- Presenting Yourself in the Best Light as a Viable Candidate

***This Entry Level Workshop is being held in conjunction with the 2nd Annual Conference of the Firefighter Diversity Recruitment Council.***

***Also, Learn About The Newly Introduced  
NATIONAL RECRUIT DATABASE***

**For just a few dollars a year, your subscription provides:**

- Automatic email alerts of application and testing events from fire departments throughout the nation.
- Regular emails with helpful tips and resources to better prepare yourself in becoming a successful recruit.

- An interactive profile form that you fill out to measure your desirability as a candidate while highlighting areas that you can pursue to increase your success in becoming a firefighter.

**Print All Information - Bring ID & Copy of Application to the Workshop for Entry.**

1. Name : Last: \_\_\_\_\_ First: \_\_\_\_\_ M.I.: \_\_\_\_\_
2. D.O.B. Month: \_\_\_\_\_ Day: \_\_\_\_\_ Year: \_\_\_\_\_
3. Address number: \_\_\_\_\_ Street name: \_\_\_\_\_ Unit: \_\_\_\_\_
4. City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_
5. Home Telephone: ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_
6. Cell Telephone: ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_
7. Email (Required to receive your confirmation):  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. EMT Certification: \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No
9. U.S. Citizen: \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No
10. Valid Drivers License: \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No Classification: \_\_\_\_\_
11. Speak a foreign language fluently: \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No  
Language: \_\_\_\_\_
12. Gender: \_\_\_ Female \_\_\_ Male Decline to state: \_\_\_\_\_
13. Education & Employment:
 

• FF-I ___ Yes ___ No	FF-II ___ Yes ___ No
• GED ___ Yes ___ No	HS Grad ___ Yes ___ No
• AA/AS ___ Yes ___ No	BA/BS ___ Yes ___ No
• Masters ___ Yes ___ No	Other ___ Yes ___ No
• In EMT school ___ Yes ___ No	EMT Cert ___ Yes ___ No
• In Paramedic school ___ Yes ___ No	Medic ___ Yes ___ No
• F/F Volunteer ___ Yes ___ No	F/F ___ Yes ___ No
14. Ethnic group: \_\_\_ Amer. Indian/Alaskan Native \_\_\_ Asian/Pacific Islander  
\_\_\_ Black \_\_\_ Filipino \_\_\_ Hispanic \_\_\_ White \_\_\_ Other \_\_\_ Decline to state

**Mail application and \$30 entry fee to:**

Firefighter's ABC's  
9315 Braquet Lane  
Gilroy, CA 95020  
Phone: (408) 842-8326

***SEATING IS LIMITED TO FIRST 100 REGISTRANTS!***

**Application & \$30 fee must be submitted no later than Friday, March 6, 2009.**  
(Do not mail cash or personal checks. No Refunds.)

**Email:** [FirefightersABCs@FirefightersABCs.com](mailto:FirefightersABCs@FirefightersABCs.com)

**Web Site:** [www.FirefightersABCs.com](http://www.FirefightersABCs.com)

**Learn All That You Need to Know About Joining the Fire Service**

- "The Career of Choice"
- Written & Physical Ability Testing
- Oral Interviewing Techniques
- The Personal History Questionnaire and Background Process
- Building a Compelling Resume
- Resources to Help Increase Your Success

- Presenting Yourself in the Best Light as a Viable Candidate

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## **FIRE SERVICE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES:**

### **REGISTER FOR ENTRY-LEVEL FIREFIGHTER TESTING!!**

#### **Take One Test for a Spot on the National List!**

Fire & Police Selection, Inc. (FPSI), a consulting firm specializing in the development and administration of national entry-level firefighter pre-employment tests used by hundreds of large metropolitan fire departments across the U.S. and Canada, is pleased to announce our new *National Fire Select Test*™ for firefighter applicants.

National Fire Select is a division of FPSI that focuses exclusively on testing applicants interested in obtaining entry-level firefighter positions with fire departments across the U.S. and Canada. Applicants who use our services will take **one written** test and have their test scores considered by multiple fire departments without having to travel around testing with dozens of fire departments in hopes of obtaining a job. An applicant living in California – for instance – can take a written test in San Jose and may be considered for job openings in Alaska, Colorado, Missouri or Texas without ever leaving his/her home state.

The idea of taking ONE STANDARDIZED TEST, and having that score recognized by multiple fire departments, is about to become reality! On **March 22 2009**, FPSI will administer the first national "National Fire Select" written test for entry-level firefighter positions in San Jose, California. To learn more about this innovative opportunity, view a list of participating fire departments or to register today, please visit their website at [www.nationalfireselect.com](http://www.nationalfireselect.com)

Take advantage of testing at one site, with one test, and have your test score considered by multiple fire departments with entry-level firefighter job openings. Visit their website today!

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## **FIRE SERVICE TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES:**

### **Wildland Fire Skills "Gap" Courses Now Available**

Emmitsburg, MD – The United States Fire Administration (USFA) announced today the availability of wildland fire skills Gap courses for structural firefighters. The USFA's National Preparedness Network (PREPnet) has produced a Webcast that explains the requirements, availability, and distribution of these newly packaged Gap course materials. The Webcast, ***Crosswalk: Bridging the Skills Gap***, is available for viewing anytime on the [USFA Web site](http://www.usfa.gov).

The **Gap** courses are based on the [Wildland Training for Structural Firefighters Skills Crosswalk](http://www.usfa.gov). The Crosswalk effort, lead by USFA in partnership with the National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) and the International Association of Fire Chiefs, identified parallel technical competencies between structural firefighters and officers (NFPA Standard 1001 and 1021) or equivalent with those of four NWCG positions: Firefighter Type 2 (FFT2),

Firefighter Type 1 (FFT1), Engine Boss Single Resource (ENGB), and Strike Team Leader Engine (STEN). The **Crosswalk** also identified wildland skills and knowledge that qualified and experienced firefighters would not already have acquired through their structural firefighting training, such as specific wildland fire tactical concepts and wildland fire behavior. Learning modules were identified with the NWCG training courses to address these gaps.

The **Gap** courses take advantage of the existing skill sets of structural firefighters and minimize redundancy and classroom time for those seeking to develop their wildland fire skills. Each **Gap** course is composed entirely of NWCG training material pulled into specific courses.

The new **Gap** courses are:

- G-130, Wildland Training (FFT2) for Structural Firefighters
- G-131, Wildland Training (FFT1) for Structural Firefighters
- G-231, Wildland Training (ENGB) for Structural Firefighters
- G-330, Wildland Training (STEN) for Structural Firefighters

These new courses accomplish one of the goals stated in the National Association of State Foresters' 2003 report to Congress titled ***The Changing Role and Needs of Local, Rural, and Volunteer Fire Departments in the Wildland Urban Interface***. Visit the [Wildfire section](#) of the USFA Web site for additional information on this wildland training endeavor and to view the Crosswalk and Frequently Asked Questions section.

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## **PUBLIC EDUCATION & FIREFIGHTER SAFETY** **INFO:**

The attached news release concerns the unfortunate tremendous increase in multiple death fires we've had across the country since 1 January. While this may not have happened in your community--it could have. So, we want to emphasize the importance of fire safety with the release of this announcement. Get it to your newspapers, TV and radio stations. Encourage them to run it and to contact you for additional local impact. This is a good time for you to shine in front of your audience. Go for it!

P.S. Note the organizations backing this release.

### **Sent By:**

Contact: Ed Comeau

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413-896-5718 (cell)

[ecomeau@writer-tech.com](mailto:ecomeau@writer-tech.com)

- **Fatal fires prompt national warning!**
- **January 2009 has been a particularly deadly month!!!**

Belchertown, MA – February 25, 2009 Fire deaths during January are at a pace above 2008, according to information provided by state fire marshals across the country. In a snapshot taken of the number of fire deaths in 28 states by the National Association of State Fire Marshals, at least 173 people have been killed during January 2009 as opposed to 131 in January 2008, an increase of almost one-third. In addition, during January 2009, 82 people died in fires where three people or more were killed as opposed to 42 in 2008 and 51 deaths in 2007. Almost two-thirds of those killed in 2009 were children, according to information compiled by [writer-tech.com](http://writer-tech.com).

**Recent tragedies during January include:**

- Washington, DC, six killed, four of which were children
- Richland, NY, four adults, four children
- Paris, TX, five adults
- Chicago, IL, three children
- Cowpens, SC, one adult, three children
- Greely, IA, four children
- Stone Mountain, GA, three children
- Lacombe, LA, four children
- Fort Wayne, IN, two separate fires that killed four adults and three children

Fires strike across the country, killing on the average nine people each day (one every 153 minutes) and injuring thousands. In 2007, the latest year for which statistics are available, 3,430 people were killed in fires and 17,675 were injured. Ironically, over 80 percent of the civilian deaths occur in the very place that people feel the safest from fire – their homes. These are tragedies for the families, the communities, the nation.

So often these fires and their fateful outcomes are avoidable through the use of proven fire prevention strategies and education. By making the public more aware of the role that they have in helping to build a fire-safe community we can make tremendous strides, one home at a time, towards reducing the loss of life and property that occurs every single year.

We have joined together to redouble our efforts to reach out to people across the nation to raise the national awareness of fire prevention. We know, without a doubt, that by educating our citizens about fire-safe practices and what to do if a fire should break out we can reduce the losses in our communities and work towards a fire-safe future for today's generation and beyond. Each of the organizations listed is committed to a simple mission – saving lives. Some of the actions are ones that can be done today, others are for the future. However, by starting right now, we can someday point back and say that it started today.

We have reduced fire deaths nationally during the last 20 years but the problem and sadness continues to exist. We believe that we can further reduce our national life loss in this area by focusing on these key areas:

- Install smoke alarms in every bedroom, outside all sleeping areas and on every level of your home.
- For the best protection interconnect them so when one sounds they all sound.
- Test your smoke alarms monthly to make sure they are working at all times.

- Residential sprinklers save lives. If you are building or remodeling, consider installing residential sprinklers in your home.
- Smoking is one of the leading causes of fatal fires. If you smoke, put it out every time.
- Cooking fires are the leading cause of all fires. Stay in the kitchen when you are frying, grilling or broiling food.
- Know two ways out, no matter where you are – your home, office, restaurant, movie theater.
- Always react to a fire alarm immediately.

### **QuickStats - The Overall Fire Picture – 2007 (latest year available)**

- There were 3,430 civilians that lost their lives as the result of fire.
- Nationwide, there was a civilian fire death every 153 minutes.
- There were 17,675 civilian injuries that occurred as the result of fire.
- Nationwide, there was a civilian fire injury every 30 minutes.
- There were 103 firefighters killed while on duty.
- Fire killed more Americans than all natural disasters combined.
- 84 percent of all civilian fire deaths occurred in homes.
- .6 million fires were reported. Many others went unreported, causing additional injuries and property loss.
- Every 20 seconds, a fire department responded to a fire somewhere in the nation.
- Direct property loss due to fires was estimated at \$14.6 billion.
- An estimated 32,500 intentionally set structure fires resulted in 295 civilian deaths.
- Intentionally set structure fires resulted in an estimated \$733 million in property damage.

*Source: National Fire Protection Association, Fire Loss in the U.S. During 2006 and Firefighter Fatalities in the U.S. – 2007.*

### **Fire deaths, January 2008 and January 2009, compiled by the National Association of State Fire Marshals:**

<b><u>State</u></b>	<b><u>2008</u></b>	<b><u>2009</u></b>
Alabama	9	14
Alaska	3	4
Arizona	3	3
Delaware	2	1
Idaho	1	0
Illinois	13	15
Iowa	4	12
Kansas	2	3
Maine	2	3
Maryland	5	6
Minnesota	0	2
Mississippi	11	8
Missouri	13	13
Montana	1	2
Nebraska	0	5



New Hampshire	2	1
New Jersey	8	7
New York	17	21
Nevada	3	1
North Carolina	11	12
North Dakota	1	2
Oklahoma	4	12
South Carolina	6	15
South Dakota	0	0
Utah	1	1
Washington	4	6
Wisconsin	5	4
Wyoming	0	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>173</b>

- 32% increase 2008 to 2009

**THE FOLLOWING ORGANIZATIONS HAVE JOINED TOGETHER TO URGE EVERYONE TO PRACTICE FIRE SAFETY EVERY DAY:**

*AMERICAN FIRE SPRINKLER ASSOCIATION*

[www.firesprinkler.org](http://www.firesprinkler.org)

*COMMON VOICES*

[www.fireadvocates.org](http://www.fireadvocates.org)

*CONGRESSIONAL FIRE SERVICES INSTITUTE*

[www.cfsi.org](http://www.cfsi.org)

*FIRE TEAM USA*

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

*HOME SAFETY COUNCIL*

[www.homesafetycouncil.org](http://www.homesafetycouncil.org)

*INSTITUTION OF FIRE ENGINEERS – USA BRANCH*

[www.ife-usa.org](http://www.ife-usa.org)

*INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BLACK PROFESSIONAL FIRE FIGHTERS*

[www.iabpff.org](http://www.iabpff.org)

*INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIRE CHIEFS*

[www.iafc.org](http://www.iafc.org)

*INTERNATIONAL CODE COUNCIL*

[www.iccsafe.org](http://www.iccsafe.org)

*INTERNATIONAL FIRE MARSHALS ASSOCIATION*

[www.nfpa.org/ifma](http://www.nfpa.org/ifma)

March 13, 2009

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

METROPOLITAN FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION  
[www.nfpa.org/metro](http://www.nfpa.org/metro)

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE FIRE MARSHALS  
[www.firemarshals.org](http://www.firemarshals.org)

NATIONAL ELECTRICAL MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION  
[www.nema.org](http://www.nema.org)

NATIONAL FIRE SPRINKLER ASSOCIATION  
[www.nfsa.org](http://www.nfsa.org)

NATIONAL VOLUNTEER FIRE COUNCIL  
[www.nvfc.org](http://www.nvfc.org)

PEOPLE'S BURN FOUNDATION  
[www.peoplesburnfoundation.org](http://www.peoplesburnfoundation.org)

PHOENIX SOCIETY FOR BURN SURVIVORS  
[www.phoenix-society.org](http://www.phoenix-society.org)

SOCIETY OF FIRE PROTECTION ENGINEERS  
[www.sfpe.org](http://www.sfpe.org)

UNDERWRITERS LABORATORIES  
[www.ul.com](http://www.ul.com)

UNITED STATES FIRE ADMINISTRATION  
[www.usfa.dhs.gov](http://www.usfa.dhs.gov)

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## **FIRE RELATED EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY:**



**POSITION:** Fire Prevention Specialist

**DUTIES:** Perform Brush Clearance Consultations beginning in May, apply Phoschek Fire Retardant when needed, respond to Wildland Incidents to designated Clients property (non-

suppression) and apply phoscheck during a Wildfire Incident. Other duties as directed which may include but not limited to: Interact with municipal fire agencies, perform presentations to insurance brokers/agents on fire safety, meet with homeowners to discuss fire safety plans during a Wildfire.

**QUALIFICATIONS:** State Certified Firefighter I, ICS – 100, S-190, S-290 or equivalent qualifications. Excellent people skills and physical Condition. Team player with the ability to follow directives. Ability to respond on Incidents when needed.

**SALARY:** \$3,000 - \$4,000 per month (Depending on Qualifications)

### ***How It Works***

The Wildfire Protection Unit is not a private fire department; it's a loss mitigation service designed to pre-empt damage well before a wildfire even ignites. Through a partnership between AIG and Firebreak Spray Systems LLC, we offer:

- At-home consultation. Firebreak's wildfire protection specialists will visit your property to assess its vulnerability in the event of a wildfire.
- Pre-treatment. If your home has brush exposure, they will apply Phos-Chek®- the same environmentally friendly fire retardant used by the U.S. Forest Service - around the perimeter of your property. The retardant creates a "barrier" to shield your home throughout wildfire season.
- Emergency response. If a wildfire threatens your home, Firebreak's emergency response team will be dispatched automatically to apply Phos-Chek to all combustible areas of your property.\*

**APPLICATIONS AND RESUMES SUBMITTED TO:** [Jturner@firebreaksystems.com](mailto:Jturner@firebreaksystems.com)

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## **FIRE SERVICE TRAINING OPPORTUNITY:**

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

### **Assessment Center Workshop –**

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

### **COURSE CONTENT:**

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

## **Simulator Workshop -**

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

### **COURSE CONTENT:**

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

**Instructor:** CHUCK WILSON

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

### **Class Locations and Dates:**

#### **Visalia, CA**

April 23 (AC) & April 24 (Sim)  
Visalia Fire Training Center  
6921 West Ferguson  
Visalia, CA 93291

#### **Roseville, CA**

April 25 (AC) & April 26 (SIM)  
Roseville Fire Department Training Center  
2030 Hilltop Circle  
Roseville, CA

**Register at:** [www.promotionalworkshops.com](http://www.promotionalworkshops.com)

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

\$120.00 per day per class at the door

3% Credit Card fee

\* Now Accepting Visa and Master Card \*

### **For More Information, contact:**

CHUCK WILSON

77-263 Maliko Street

Kailua Kona, Hawaii 96740-4468

(310) 261-7795 Cell

[cwilson@promotionalworkshops.com](mailto:cwilson@promotionalworkshops.com)

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## **INFORMATION REQUEST FROM THE NATIONAL FALLEN FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION:**

### **Fireman's Fund Insurance Company Launches Nationwide Fire Service Survey**

After hearing from fire departments across the country facing increased budget challenges, Fireman's Fund Insurance Company is sponsoring an on-line survey to gather data on the challenges faced by fire departments in different regions of the country. The result will be a comprehensive snapshot of today's fire service, providing detailed insight and showing trends.

The electronic survey will ask questions to gauge how the current economic crisis is affecting departments and what equipment and resources departments are lacking. The survey results will be a tool for the fire service to educate the public, as well as guide and support the grant program at Fireman's Fund®.

The survey can be found at [www.ipsosresearch.com/FireService](http://www.ipsosresearch.com/FireService) or through the [www.firemansfund.com/heritage](http://www.firemansfund.com/heritage) website starting on February 16 and running through March 2009. Results are expected to be announced nationwide in May.

» More: [Full Story on EveryoneGoesHome.com](http://FullStoryonEveryoneGoesHome.com)

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## **FIRE SERVICE TRAINING OPPORTUNITY:**

### **THE ABC'S OF CONFLICT RESOLUTION STRATEGY & TACTICS**

*Learn how to face problems head-on with confidence!*

**An 8-hour class**  
**Monday March 30<sup>th</sup> or Tuesday March 31<sup>st</sup>**  
**8:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.**  
**The Women's Building, 3543 18th Street, SF**  
**Sponsored by:**  
**United Fire Service Women**

#### **What you can expect from this class:**

- Conflict prevention techniques
- Focused discussions on real life scenarios
- Concrete tools for handling tough situations
- Practice with asserting your leadership and teambuilding skills
- Problem solving role-plays both inside the firehouse and on the fireground
- Multiple hands-on exercises!

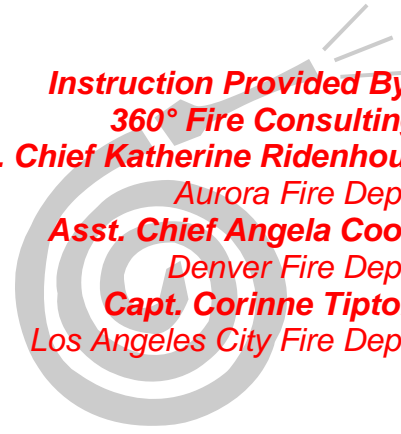
Morning snacks and lunch  
provided both days!

**Tuition:**  
**\$50 (members of UFSW)**  
**\$75 (non UFSW members)**

Registration by March 15<sup>th</sup>  
Limit 18 per class!

For further information contact: Nicol Juratovac at [njuratovac22@yahoo.com](mailto:njuratovac22@yahoo.com)

**Instruction Provided By:**  
**360° Fire Consulting**  
**Batt. Chief Katherine Ridenhour**  
*Aurora Fire Dept.*  
**Asst. Chief Angela Cook**  
*Denver Fire Dept.*  
**Capt. Corinne Tipton**  
*Los Angeles City Fire Dept.*



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## **FIRE SERVICE TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES:**

### **Public Safety Training Group**

#### **2009 COURSE SCHEDULE**

- Level 1 State Fire Officers Courses - \$325 Per Class
- Classes located in Brentwood, CA

<b>COURSE</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>DATES</b>
Command 1B	PSTG Facility	April 13 - 17
Command 1C	PSTG Facility	May 4 - 8
Instructor 1A	PSTG Facility	April 20 - 24
Instructor 1B	PSTG Facility	May 11-15
Prevention 1A	PSTG Facility	June 22 - 26
Prevention 1B	PSTG Facility	July 6 –10
Management 1	PSTG Facility	Aug. 31 - Sept.4
ICS 300	PSTG Facility	October 5 - 9
Hazmat First Responder	PSTG Facility	August 3 - 7
CPR	PSTG Facility	See Website for Details
Self Defense for EMS	PSTG Facility	March 21
First Responder	PSTG Facility	June 2–July 2
Emergency Medical Tech	PSTG Facility	July 18–Sept. 24

- For more information, including how to register, go to [www.pstgonline.com](http://www.pstgonline.com)

## **DIVERSITY RECRUITMENT COUNCIL** **CONFERENCE:**

Dear Colleagues:

Firefighter's ABC's extends an invitation to join us at the upcoming Firefighter Diversity Recruitment Council Conference.

While some have already indicated that they will not be able to attend, we wanted to take this opportunity to update you all on a couple of key agenda items and recently registered fire departments.

The conference will be held March 19th and 20th at the Dolce Hayes Mansion in the City of San Jose, CA. Details regarding the program can be found at [www.FirefightersABCs.com](http://www.FirefightersABCs.com). Do note that conference fees have been significantly reduced from last year and will be held at these levels until the actual event. Simply fax your conference registration form and mail your check at your earliest convenience.

A recent speaker addition is Chief Sheldon Gilbert, Alameda County Fire Department and President of the California Chiefs Association. The title of his presentation is:  
Diversity: The Influence of Chiefs Associations

As many of you are aware, our stated mission is to:

- Assist Fire Departments in the realization of their diversity recruitment goals.
- Provide aspiring Firefighters with the preparedness, resources and motivation to become successful recruits.

Towards these objectives, the National Recruit Database will be introduced at the conference. Subscribing candidates, from throughout the nation, will receive recruitment announcements directly from members of the Firefighter Diversity Recruitment Council. With your department's attendance at the conference, your one-year membership allows your posted job announcements to be emailed directly to candidates on the National Recruit Database, at no cost. If you can't attend the conference, become a Council member, for only \$95/year, and take advantage of this valuable benefit, among many others.

Another objective of Firefighter's ABC's is to keep your diversity recruitment pipeline filled with viable candidates. As such, we are vigorously promoting the National Recruit Database among high schools and have invited Career Counselors and School District Management to also attend the conference.

Among current and new Council members, Fire Departments that have recently registered to attend the conference include:

- San Jose Fire Department CA
- Madison Fire & Rescue AL
- Baton Rouge Fire Department LA
- Pine Bluff Fire Department AR

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- Oceanside Fire Department CA
- Palo Alto Fire Department CA
- Santa Monica Fire Department CA
- San Diego Fire & Rescue Department CA
- Vacaville Fire Department CA
- Mt View Fire Department CA
- Richmond Fire Department BC CA
- Charlotte Fire Department NC
- Torrance Fire Department CA
- Fort Bliss Fire & Emergency Services Div TX
- Los Angeles Co Fire Department CA
- Seattle Fire Department WA
- East Point Fire Department GA
- Rockford Fire Department IL
- Plano Fire Department TX
- San Miguel Fire District CA
- Menlo Park Fire District CA
- Redmond Fire Department WA
- Alameda County Fire Department CA

Also, when you register to attend the conference, make sure that you sign up for the free workshop on the National Recruit Assessment Testing Initiative that was an outgrowth of last year's conference. Not only will you be able to provide collaborative input on this important concept, you will also be able to deduct \$50 from your conference fees.

Attached are the registrations for the conference, firefighter entry level workshop as well as information on the FPSI National Testing workshop.

Please extend an invite to other departments in your area to join in this valuable conference. Thank you for your interest and we hope to see you at the conference.

Best Regards

Russell G. Hayden - CEO  
Firefighter's ABC's  
\* Firefighter Diversity Recruitment Council  
\* National Recruit Database  
9315 Braquet Lane  
Gilroy, CA 95020  
408-842-8326  
408-842-1447 Fax  
408-608-8754 Cell  
[RussellHayden@FirefightersABCs.com](mailto:RussellHayden@FirefightersABCs.com)  
[www.FirefightersABCs.com](http://www.FirefightersABCs.com)



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## **FIRE SERVICE TRAINING OPPORTUNITY:**

### **National Fire Academy (NFA) Training Opportunities**

*(as of March 13, 2009)*

Vacancies exist in the following NFA courses at the National Emergency Training Center in Emmitsburg, Maryland. You may refer to the internet at [www.usfa.dhs.gov/nfa](http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/nfa) for more information, or contact the Admissions Office via email [netc-admissions@dhs.gov](mailto:netc-admissions@dhs.gov) or by phone at (301) 447-1035. Completed FEMA Form 75-5 applications may be faxed to (301) 447-1441.

**If interested, apply immediately!**

*Note: The NFA policy of only 1 stipend-supported trip per fiscal year remains. However, a qualified individual may seek to participate without stipend assistance. PLEASE INDICATE with your application that you are aware of this restriction when you apply for the course.*

#### **FAQ – NFA Vacancy Lists**

**Q: Why are there vacancies at the National Fire Academy? Are enrollments down?**

A: Enrollments in the National Fire Academy (NFA) are actually up. Last year, in cooperation with our State training partners, our on-line training at NFAOnline, and in our resident and off-campus delivery program, the NFA reached 108,000 fire service professionals. In 1995 we trained just 15,000. Like every college, we plan our academic year based on last year's enrollments, the number of new courses on the schedule, waiting lists for current courses and the calendar and our best estimate of the demand for courses the following year. It's not an exact science.

Vacancies occur for any number of reasons – some classes have low demand because the number of fire department members doing that job is low (e.g. public educators, data analysts, training, plans review, budget), but these courses are in many ways critical to the success of fire and life safety and the administration of the fire department. Other times we may overestimate the demand. When that happens, we cancel a low-demand course, move the enrolled students into another delivery of that course and use the funds to run an additional high-demand course.

**Q: It seems that I'm hearing more about vacancies than I ever have in the past. Why is that?**

A: Well, you are. Before widespread communication using web sites and email, the NFA relied on last minute telephone calls to fill seats. We couldn't announce the vacancies in sufficient time to get the students here to campus. Now, with improved communications, the increased membership and support of the Alumni Association and the participation of many of the fire service organizations, we distribute vacancy announcements in a matter of minutes. It is working very well.

What you are seeing, though, is only the vacancies. We never send out the list of classes that are already filled and have a waiting list. The lists show only the few vacancies we have.

**Q: I don't apply during the application period, I like to wait to see what classes have vacancies before I apply, is that a good idea?**

A: NO! The first requirement for a student's eligibility to attend the NFA is their current job responsibility (Box #16). If you wait, it is likely that the courses you qualify for will be filled by others in the normal application process. When that happens, you lose the best chance you had to attend the NFA. Worse, if applications are low, the class you seek may be cancelled. The most useful and valuable course for you may never show up on a vacancy list. The better strategy is to apply during the normal application periods (May 1- June 30 and Nov 1 to Dec 30). Remember, if you qualify, you may apply for two different courses in the same semester (using a separate application for each); however, you will only receive a stipend for one trip per fiscal year (Oct 1 through Sept 30)

**Q: Why are there waiting lists and vacancy lists at the same time?**

A: Our courses are academically rigorous, and every class is considered mid- to upper-level college course work. It is important to ensure that each student is capable of success in the course before being admitted.

Students are accepted to the NFA based on the 'target audience' criteria listed in the catalog. We want to make sure that the course is a benefit to both the fire department and the students when they return; and is of sufficient complexity to advance the student's knowledge to improve local service delivery. Students who do not meet the 'target' criteria would slow the class down, and expose the student to possible failure.

It is more important to fill a seat with a qualified student than it is to simply fill a vacancy. This ensures success for the department, the student and the rest of the class.

**Q: What is the most frequent cause of application rejection?**

1. Used the wrong application. For resident courses, applicants should submit the long form (75-5) application which requires the chief's signature
2. Didn't fill out the application completely
3. Didn't sign the application, or have the Fire Chief sign the application
4. Failure to describe your activities/responsibilities as they relate to the course for which you are applying and identify how you will use the information obtained from the course. (Box 16).

**Q: Any suggestions to increase my chances of success?**

A: On our website, there is a document that provides eight "tips" for completing a successful application. It only takes a minute – but will dramatically improve your chances for success:

<http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/nfa/about/attend/apply.shtm>

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All vacancies are filled on a first come, first served basis and qualified by using the Student Selection Criteria listed on our Website: [www.usfa.dhs.gov/nfa](http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/nfa)

**2<sup>nd</sup> Semester FY2010:**

R108 Evaluating Performance Based Designs

4/5/09-4/10/09 3 vacancies

6/21/09-6/26/09 13 vacancies

R135 Fire Protection for the Built Environment

7/19/09-7/24/09 12 vacancies

R149 EMS: Mgmt of Community Health Risk

8/24/09-9/4/09 15 vacancies

R203 Fire Dynamics-Fire Modeling

7/6/09-7/17/09 14 vacancies

8/3/09-8/14/09 14 vacancies

R208 Interviewing/Interr.Techniques

7/20/09-7/31/09 3 vacancies

R213 Analysis of Arson Management

8/16/09-8/21/09 8 vacancies

R220 Fire Inspection Principles

8/3/09-8/14/09 7 vacancies

9/21/09-10/2/09 14 vacancies

R243 Hazardous Materials Incident Management

5/3/09-5/8/09 6 vacancies

7/26/09-7/31/09 16 vacancies

R247 Advanced Life Support Response to Hazardous Materials Incidents

9/21/09-10/2/09 16 vacancies

R335 Adm. Pub.Asst. For Community Recovery

5/3/09-5/8/09 6 vacancies

6/21/09-6/26/09 21 vacancies

R348 Changing American Family at Risk

5/3/09-5/8/09 1 vacancies

R362 Developing Fire & Life Safety Strategies

7/26/09-7/31/09 2 vacancies

R491 NFIRS: Program Manager

6/7/09-6/12/09 7 vacancies

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R506 Executive Planning

8/24/09-9/4/09           4 vacancies

R508 Partnering for Fire Defense and Emergency Services Planning

9/20/09-9/25/09           18 vacancies

R526 Long Term Recovery Planning

5/3/09-5/8/09           11 vacancies

8/16/09-8/21/09           21 vacancies

R810 VIP: Leadership & Administration

9/13/09-9/18/09           3 vacancies

R822 VIP: Advanced Safety Operation and Management

9/13/09-9/18/09           10 vacancies

R823 VIP: Leading Community Fire Prevention

9/13/09-9/18/09           16 vacancies

R824 VIP: Management Strategies for Success

9/13/09-9/18/09           13 vacancies

R826 VIP: Presenting Effective Public Education

9/13/09-9/18/09           16 vacancies

***Important Reminder: The National Fire Academy has changed the application periods—the next application period opens April 15! Apply between April 15 and June 15, 2009 for classes running October 1, 2009 – March 31, 2010.***

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

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

**S**uccessfully passing the CPAT means that you should be able to enter a firefighter academy at a reasonable level of fitness appropriate to the job. I encourage you to learn more about the CPAT, and also look into having this certificate on your resume. Trust me, this may be an eye-opener for some – many of you will not pass it the first time. Make sure

you take advantage of the orientation and practice sessions and learn where your weak spots are so you can focus on those areas.

**CPAT TESTING CENTER LOCATIONS:**

**Southern California:**

626 N. Eckhoff Street  
Orange, CA 92868

**Northern California**

6723 Sierra Court, Suite G  
Dublin, CA 94568

**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](http://www.cpatonline.org)

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**FIRE SERVICE TRAINING OPPORTUNITY:**

**Resource Unit Leader (S-348)  
Demobilization Unit Leader (S-347)  
Hosted by Solano Training Officers Association**

**Dates:** April 20-23, 2009  
**Time:** 0900-1700 hrs first day; 0800-1700 other days  
**Cost:** \$125.00 per class (payable to STOA)  
c/o Cordelia Fire District  
2155 Cordelia Road  
Fairfield, CA 94534

- *Class size limited to 25 students*
- *Registration deadline is March 27, 2009*
- *Precourse material will be sent prior to class start date*

**PREREQUISITE: "Check in Status Recorder" class or bring task book to class**  
**I-300 Intermediate ICS recommended**

**Location:** Vacaville Fire Protection District, 420 Vine Street, Vacaville 95688

**Instructors:**

- Jon Lovie, Captain, Cal Fire, Incident Command Team 4
- Linda Green, Battalion Chief, Cal Fire, Incident Command Team 1
- John Griffen, Retired Division Chief, Cal Fire

**Contact Patty, Cordelia Fire 707-864-0468 or [cordeliafire@sbcglobal.net](mailto:cordeliafire@sbcglobal.net) to register for classes**

## **FIREFIGHTER RECRUITMENT FAIR:**

### ***CFFJAC Firefighter Recruitment Fair***

Even in tough economic times, the need for qualified firefighters is still keen. Many departments are hiring to replace retirees and fill other shortfalls.

If you know someone who has ever considered joining the ranks of California's finest in the fire service, you need to let them know about the CFFJAC's 2009 Firefighter Recruitment Fairs:

- Saturday, April 25th, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., at the [CPAT Center in Sacramento](#)
- Saturday, May 2nd, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., at the [CPAT Center in Livermore](#)
- Saturday, May 9th, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., at the [CPAT Center in Orange](#)

Sponsored by the CFFJAC's Commission to Recruit Women in the Fire Service, the Firefighter Recruitment Fair provides an up-close-and-personal look at the women and men who serve on the front lines to protect millions of Californians.

Highlights will include:

- **Direct Recruitment:** Meet recruitment officers from fire departments throughout California and find out how to secure a future with their departments.
- **Candidate Physical Ability Testing:** Try your hand at the physical ability techniques needed to be a fire fighter and learn how to take, and pass, the industry-leading Candidate Physical Abilities Test.
- **"A Day in the Life of a Firefighter":** Watch presentations detailing the responsibilities and rewards associated with firefighting.
- **Meet and Learn from Working Firefighters:** Talk to firefighters from throughout the state about becoming a first responder.
- **Apparatus displays:** Take an up-close look at the "tools of the trade" including a fire apparatus on display.

Best of all, it's **FREE** to attend. So, what are you waiting for?

To RSVP your attendance, e-mail us at [womens-commish@cpf.org](mailto:womens-commish@cpf.org) or call (916) 648-1717.

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## **FIREFIGHTER EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES:**

**I**f 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.firecareers.com](http://www.firecareers.com)
- [www.firerecruit.com](http://www.firerecruit.com)

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

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**MARCH 2009 STATE FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE REPORT:**

- **Download your monthly report from the California State Fire Marshal at**  
<http://calchiefs.org/items/SFMReportMarch2009.pdf>

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**FIREFIGHTER FATALITY INFORMATION:**

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

Name:	John W. Adams
Rank:	Firefighter
Age:	45
Gender:	Male
Status:	Volunteer
Years of Service:	5
Date of Incident:	02/20/2009
Time of Incident:	1030hrs
Date of Death:	02/20/2009

**Chabot College Fire & EMS News**

Fire Department: Silver City Volunteer Fire Department  
Address: 5550 S 433rd West AVE, Jennings, OK 74038  
Fire Department Chief: Brutus Beall

**Incident Description:** Nearly a dozen hours after the (600) acre grass fire had begun; Firefighter Adams collapsed and stopped breathing at approximately 2200hrs while he was backing his fire apparatus along the side of Hwy 51. Adams was assisted by other responders but succumbed to his injury and was pronounced at the scene. Authorities suspect the fire was intentional because three fires were set within a mile of each other, just moments apart.

**Incident Location:** Near Mannford, OK.

**Map View:**

<http://www.fidnet.com/~jlmoore/usng/?zoom=10&usng=14SQF4103601559&disp=h>

**Funeral Arrangements:** 1<sup>st</sup> Baptist Church, 105 Greenwood AVE, Mannford, OK, @ 1130hrs on 02/25/2009.

**Memorial Fund Contact and Address:** The family has requested that any honorariums be made in memory of Firefighter John Adams to the Silver City Volunteer Fire Department, 5550 S 433rd West AVE, Jennings, OK 74038

**Tribute** is being paid to Firefighter John Adams at

<http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/>

To date, 14 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2009 as a result of incidents that occurred in 2009. Year-to-date monthly and annual USFA firefighter fatality reports are posted online @ [http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/statistics/ff\\_stats.shtm](http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/statistics/ff_stats.shtm).

**AND:**

Name: Derek Edward North  
Rank: Firefighter  
Age: 34  
Gender: Male  
Status: Volunteer  
Years of Service: 3  
Date of Incident: 02/23/2009  
Time of Incident: 1559hrs  
Date of Death: 02/23/2009  
Fire Department: Stockton Fire Department  
Address: Lakeland/Lanier Fire and Rescue (District), PO Box 68, Lakeland, GA 31635  
Fire Department Chief: Jimmy North  
District Fire Chief: Gary Yeomans



**Chabot College Fire & EMS News**

**Incident Description:** Firefighter Derek North was riding in the officer seat of the department's 1966 Ford Fire Knocker in response to a fire call. For a cause still being investigated by authorities, the apparatus overturned at an intersection when it reportedly swerved to avoid a collision with other traffic. Three firefighters are reported to have been in the apparatus, Firefighter Derek North passed away from injuries, and the others, including his brother, Firefighter Chad North who was operating the vehicle, sustained serious injuries. The fire apparatus was leased from the state and is reported to have had a baffled tank.

**Seat belts:** Unknown at this time if equipped or in use.

**Incident Location:** Intersection of U.S. 84 and U.S. 129.

**Map View:**

<http://floridadisaster.org/gis/kml/viewer.htm?zoom=16&usng=17RLQ08152428&disp=h>

**Funeral Arrangements:** Pending

**Memorial Fund Contact and Address:** In memory of Firefighter Derek Edward North, c/o Lakeland/Lanier Fire and Rescue, PO Box 68, Lakeland, GA 31635.

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

To date, 15 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2009 as a result of incidents that occurred in 2009. Year-to-date monthly and annual USFA firefighter fatality reports are posted online @ [http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/statistics/ff\\_stats.shtm](http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/statistics/ff_stats.shtm).

**AND:**

Name:	Ferdinando 'Freddy' Pierno
Rank:	Firefighter/EMT
Age:	55
Gender:	Male
Status:	Career
Years of Service:	18
Date of Incident:	Pending
Time of Incident:	Pending
Date of Death:	02/25/2009
Fire Department:	Martin County Fire Rescue
Address:	800 SE Monterey Road, Stuart, FL 34994
Fire Department Chief:	Thomas M. Billington

**Incident Description:** Firefighter Pierno passed away from a Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) infection he sustained while on duty.

**Funeral Arrangements:** 03/02/2009, 1130hrs @ Saint Martin's De Porres Church, 2555 NE Savannah Road, Jensen Beach, with procession to Forest Hills Memorial Park, 2001 S.W. Murphy Road, Palm City.

**Memorial Fund Contact and Address:** Pending

**Tribute** is being paid to Firefighter/EMT Ferdinando 'Freddy' Pierno at <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/>

To date, 16 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2009 as a result of incidents that occurred in 2009.

**AND:**

Name: Michael J. Darrington  
Rank: Firefighter  
Age: 45  
Gender: Male  
Status: Career  
Years of Service: 24  
Date of Incident: 02/27/2009  
Time of Incident: 1600hrs  
Date of Death: 02/27/2009  
Fire Department: Toledo Fire and Rescue Department  
Address: 545 North Huron, Toledo, OH 43604  
Fire Department Chief: Michael W. Wolever  
Fire Department Website: <http://www.ci.toledo.oh.us/Departments/FireandRescueDepartment/tabid/82/Default.aspx>

**Incident Description:** After returning to the firehouse from an emergency run, Firefighter Darrington reported to fellow firefighters that he was feeling ill. When Darrington failed to respond to another alarm call, he was discovered in the firehouse unresponsive. Firefighters and a medical director were unable to revive him. The cause of Darrington's passing still to be reported.

**Funeral Arrangements:** Pending, updates will be posted <http://www.iaff92.org>

**Memorial Fund Contact and Address:** Pending, updates will be posted <http://www.iaff92.org>

**Tribute** is being paid to Firefighter Michael 'Mike D' Darrington at <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/>

To date, 17 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2009 as a result of incidents that occurred in 2009.

**AND:**

Name: Christopher Allen Dill  
Rank: Corporal  
Age: 43  
Gender: Male  
Status: Career

March 13, 2009

**Chabot College Fire & EMS News**

Years of Service: 14  
Date of Incident: 03/04/2009  
Time of Incident: 1405hrs  
Date of Death: 03/04/2009  
Fire Department: Oklahoma City Fire Department  
Address: 820 NW 5th St, Oklahoma City, OK 73106  
Map: <http://floridadisaster.org/gis/kml/viewer.htm?zoom=16&usng=14SPE33722651&disp=h>  
Fire Department Chief: G. Keith Bryant  
Fire Department Website: <http://www.okc.gov/Fire/index.html>

**Incident Description:** Corporal Christopher Dill responded to the scene of an apartment fire. At approximately 1600hrs and after suppression operations were completed, units on scene were cleaning up and preparing to return to the station when Corporal Dill collapsed. Care was initiated on scene and he was transported to the hospital where he later passed away. The cause of Corporal Dill's passing is pending a full investigation.

**Incident Location:** Penn Grand Apartments, 3726 S. Penn Ave.

**Map View:**  
<http://floridadisaster.org/gis/kml/viewer.htm?zoom=16&usng=14SPE31822141&disp=h>

**Funeral Arrangements:** Pending

**Memorial Fund Contact and Address:** In memory of Corporal Christopher Allen Dill, c/o Oklahoma City Fire Department, 820 NW 5th St, Oklahoma City, OK 73106

**Tribute** is being paid to Corporal Christopher Allen Dill at <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/>

To date, 18 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2009 as a result of incidents that occurred in 2009.

**AND:**

Name: Charles Myshrall  
Rank: Firefighter/EMT  
Age: 67  
Gender: Male  
Status: Volunteer  
Years of Service: 26  
Date of Incident: 01/30/2009  
Time of Incident: Pending  
Date of Death: 02/26/2009  
Fire Department: North Coventry Volunteer Fire Department, Inc.  
Address: PO Box 337, Coventry, CT 06238  
Fire Department Chief: Scott Morris  
Fire Department Website: <http://www.northcoventryfire.org/ncfd/index.asp>

**Incident Description:** On 01/30/2009, Firefighter/EMT Myshrall responded to an EMS call. At the conclusion of the call, he was walking down the resident's driveway when he slipped and fell on an unmaintained driveway. He was transported to the hospital where it was determined that he tore his quadriceps muscle from the ligaments connecting it to the knee. After consultation with a specialist, he was underwent surgery on 02/03/2009. Myshrall had been sent home and was recuperating when he suddenly collapsed and passed away on 02/26/2009 in his home from complications from the surgery.

**Funeral Arrangements:** Visitation was held from 4-8 p.m., Monday, March 2, at the Coventry-Pietras Funeral Home. A Mass of Christian Burial was held at 11 a.m., Tuesday, March 3, at St. Mary Church. Burial followed at St. Mary Cemetery.

**Memorial Fund Contact and Address:** In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the North Coventry Volunteer Fire Department, P.O. Box 337, Coventry, CT 06238 or the charity of your choice.

**Tribute** is being paid to Firefighter/EMT Charles Myshrall at <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/>

To date, 19 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2009 as a result of incidents that occurred in 2009.

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 [http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/statistics/ff\\_stats.shtm](http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/statistics/ff_stats.shtm)

Firefighter fatalities in USFA reports are summarized by date/year-of-incident. Initial notices posted online at <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/> and distributed via USFA listserv do not represent the final on-duty firefighter fatality determination by USFA for such reports, nor LODD determination made by the [National Fallen Firefighters Foundation](#) for names added each subsequent year to the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial at the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, MD, they are the beginning of a research process for each firefighter fatality reported so that such determinations can be made.

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

**OK Firefighter LODD - While Fighting Brush Fire**

A **Silver City, OK firefighter** died Friday while fighting a large grass fire near Mannford, OK. Firefighters said **Firefighter John Adams, 45**, collapsed and stopped breathing at about

**Chabot College Fire & EMS News**

10:30 p.m. after fighting the fire for several hours. He was taken to an ambulance and was later pronounced dead. Investigators said the fire appears to have been deliberately set early Friday. Police said it's possible that the person who set the fire could face negligent homicide charges. Adams had been a volunteer firefighter for six years and left behind a wife and three children.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 2-21-09 / 1815 hours

**AND:**

Hey...

We have been advised that funeral arrangements have been made for West Virginia Fire Lieutenant Johnnie Hammons and Firefighter Timothy Nicholas who died Thursday night in the Line of Duty, at that trailer fire. Visitation for both Craigsville-Beaver-Cottle Firefighters will be held on Monday, February 23rd from 1800-2100 hours at the Summersville National Guard Armory in Summersville, West Virginia. The funeral for **Lieutenant Hammons** will be held Tuesday, February 24th at 1030 hours at the Summersville National Guard Armory. He will be laid to rest at the West Virginia Memorial Gardens in Craigsville. The funeral for **Firefighter Timothy Nicholas** will also be held on Tuesday, February 24th. The service will be at 1430 hours at the Summersville National Guard Armory.

**FIREFIGHTER INJURED AFTER FALL FROM APPARATUS:**

A Shreveport (LA) Firefighter has been transported to a hospital after falling off a ladder truck. It happened after a parade yesterday, Saturday. The Firefighter was reportedly reaching for something when he fell off the apparatus. He was taken to the hospital with what is reported to be a fractured neck. Details will follow.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL,

BillyG

The Secret List 2-22-09 / 0033 hours

**AND:**

Hey...

3 people are dead after an early morning chain-reaction crash involving an ambulance and two other vehicles in Tucson, AZ. A Southwest Ambulance was traveling southbound on a local road at 0400 when a car ran a red light and collided with the ambulance, knocking it onto its side. Both vehicles then struck a pickup truck stopped at a red light. The crash killed a 71-year-old man riding in the ambulance with his friend, who was being transported to a hospital. The driver of the car and a passenger died. 2 other passengers in the car suffered serious injuries. The two medics in the ambulance, the patient being transported and the driver of the pickup truck were not badly hurt. Looks like speed and possibly alcohol as factors in the crash.

**SHREVEPORT CHIEF CRITICAL AFTER FALL:**

The **Shreveport Battalion Fire Chief** who sustained a serious injury in a fall following Saturdays Mardi Gras parade, remains in the hospital. Chief Adams, 52, was securing materials on the top of an SFD ladder truck that had been used in the parade when he lost his balance and fell approximately 10-15 feet. Chief Adams was immediately attended and

March 13, 2009

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

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treated by SFD paramedics and rushed to Willis Knighton- Pierremont. **At some point in-route to the hospital Chief Adams stopped breathing and lost a pulse and CPR and other life saving measures were performed.**

Once at the hospital Chief Adams regained a pulse but his respirations had to be mechanically controlled through a ventilator. Chief Adams was diagnosed with a severe cervical vertebra fracture. **He has been moved to the Intensive Care Unit where he is currently listed in critical condition.** The SFD is conducting a full internal investigation as to the exact cause of the accident. Chief Adams is a highly decorated 31 year veteran of the fire department coming to work as a firefighter in 1977. He was recently promoted to Battalion Chief in 2007.

### **CITY HALL DWELLERS ...PAY ATTENTION TO THIS VIDEO:**

#### **WISCONSIN FIREFIGHTERS HAVE THEIR HANDS FULL.**

The next time unknowing people (especially city hall dwellers) have a discussion with you related to wanting to make staffing cuts, brownouts, service delays etc....have them take a look at this video sent to us from Dave Statter911, which happened in Wausau. **Thoughts of 1st alarm response assignments, size-up, water supply, getting water on the fire, entry, search and rescue ...and the staffing required....all come into play for ANY FD and serves as an excellent reminder of what the calculable and predictable number of firefighters must do simultaneously, upon arrival: HERE is the video:** <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rZ6NxewH7fU>

More details on the specific fire in Wausau here from Dave:

<http://www.wusa9.com/news/columnist/blogs/2009/02/must-see-tv-and-now-catching-for-wausau.html>

#### **NEW JERSEY MAYDAY/CLOSE CALL:**

Firefighters from numerous Woodbridge Township area fire companies were operating at a serious house fire yesterday when the roof came down over the front porch area. Firefighters were inside, but were rescued. An Avenel Firefighter was taken away for a broken leg, while 2 Iselin firefighters were treated at the scene for minor injuries.

#### **THE FIRES & NUMEROUS CLOSE CALLS CONTINUE IN AUSTRALIA:**

3 Firefighters were injured yesterday at fires in the Dandenongs, Australia area. The Country Fire Authority Firefighters were injured when their tanker was engulfed by the fire. The Firefighters, who were based at Scoresby, received minor burns which destroyed their tanker. One of the Firefighters was taken to hospital and remained in a stable condition last night. Another 3 Firefighters from Upper Ferntree Gully were lucky to escape uninjured when their truck caught fire in the same fire. It was a bad day for the CFA, with another Firefighter injured on his way to help fight the fire. He was involved in a motorbike accident en route to the fire and was rushed to hospital. He was later released in a stable condition. Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 2-23-09 / 0947 hours

**AND:**

A Firefighter was killed this afternoon in an apparatus crash at the Lowndes County/Lanier County line in Georgia. It happened as the fire apparatus was responding to a call in Lanier County. The fire apparatus collided with another truck near the Stockton community at the intersection of Highway 84 and Highway 129. Three firefighters were in the apparatus, one was killed and others had serious injuries. We will provide more details later. Our sincere condolences to all affected.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 2-23-09 / 2047 hours

**AND:**

**FIREFIGHTING FAMILY INVOLVED IN APPARATUS CRASH-LODD**

A Lanier County (Georgia) Firefighting family was deeply affected today (Monday) as that wreck involving fire apparatus killed a Firefighter and injured his brother, both in the Line of Duty. Firefighter Dereck North, riding in the officer seat of the Stockton FD apparatus, died in the Line of Duty when the truck overturned at the intersection of U.S. 84 and U.S. 129. FF Dereck North's brother, Chad, who was driving the apparatus was seriously injured and taken to the hospital. Companies from 2 fire stations were dispatched at 1559 hours after an unknown caller reported an "out of control" fire at a farm. More to follow.

**WYOMING FIRE APPARATUS ROLLOVER CRASH-1 FIREFIGHTER SERIOUS:**

Two Wapiti firefighters were injured early TODAY when their fire apparatus rolled over while responding. Firefighters Mark Petersen and Eugene Brumbaugh were responding to a fire call when they were involved in the one-vehicle accident near Copperleaf. At about midnight, a sheriff's vehicle sparked and started a brush fire. Cody Firefighters were operating at the fire, and the Wapiti apparatus, driven by FF Petersen, was responding when a deer stepped in front of the apparatus. He braked and, for whatever reason, the brakes locked up and the truck rolled one-and-a-half times, injuring the Firefighters. While other FF's were working to extricate the 2 FF's from the apparatus, a deputy's vehicle **again** sparked a fire-so the FF's worked to free the two injured men and put out the grass fire. **FF Brumbaugh was sent by air ambulance to St. Vincent Healthcare in Billings. He is in serious condition.** Petersen was treated at a hospital and released. More to follow.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 2-23-09 / 2140 hours

**AND:**

Hey...

Once in a while we ask for your help, as a member of The Secret List. Fireman's Fund is sponsoring the below on-line survey to gather data on the issues faced by Firefighters...and these days, we have a few. The result will be comprehensive data of today's fire service, providing detailed insight and showing trends that you will have access to. All participants will also be eligible to receive one of 10 handcrafted leather Fireman's Fund fire helmets-a reproduction from the 1880's. Free stuff. Since 2004, Fireman's Fund has **donated more than \$21 million to over 1,000 different FD's.** Free \$\$...and a chance for a free helmet?

**Chabot College Fire & EMS News**

What's not to like? Please take a few minutes please and do this survey,...as well as please forward this issue of The Secret List to others.

[www.ipsosresearch.com/secretlist](http://www.ipsosresearch.com/secretlist)

NOTE: While we have no business affiliation with Fireman's Fund, and we at FireFighterCloseCalls.com/The Secret List accept no funding from them or any other business, organization or group, **the fact that Fireman's Fund has provided so much for the fire service, we want to help them out.** Please take a few minutes and do the survey.

Thanks,

BillyG

The Secret List 2-24-09 / 1600 Hours

**AND:**

Hey...

As we continue to learn about Mondays tragic Line of Duty Death in that apparatus crash near Stockton, Georgia, we find out that Firefighter Derek E. North's twin Brother, Chad, was seriously injured in the crash as well...and that, FF D.North's Wife, also a FF, came upon the crash while responding on the same run.

**Funeral arrangements for Firefighter Derek Edward North:** Music Funeral Home, Lakeland, GA - Viewing: TODAY: 18:00-21:00, Service: Thurs. 26 Feb 14:00, Southside Baptist Church Highway 221 South, Lakeland, GA 229-482-2280. Graveside: Wayfare Cemetery, Hwy 129 South-Stockton.

**REMEMBER ORANGE COUNTY (FL) FIREFIGHTERS...Whose LODD Was Not In Vain:**

We remember Orange County (FL) Firefighters Todd Aldridge and Mark Benge, who died in the Line of Duty on Feb 24th, 1989 after the roof a burning gift shop collapsed near Disney World. As you may know, a bill, named in their honored was passed in Florida last year..the **Aldridge-Benge Firefighter Safety Act**...and it requires owners of any commercial, industrial, or any multi-unit residential structure, to mark these buildings in a manner that identifies them as light-frame truss-type construction. A sign or symbol will alert firefighters of the construction material and allow them to modify their tactics for fighting fires in buildings. RIP.

**NIOSH has recently released the following Fire Fighter Fatality Investigation Reports:**

Apr 08, 2008 Deputy Fire Chief dies when struck by **motorized water monitor that "launched" off aerial ladder** truck - Pennsylvania:

<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/reports/face200812.html>

May 06, 2007 FF dies while performing exterior fire suppression at a large machine shed fire - Illinois: <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/reports/face200820.html>

Sep 26, 2001 FF suffers fatal heart attack at fire at his residence - Florida

<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/reports/face200222.html>

**FIREFIGHTER STAFFING ISSUES/PROBLEMS??**



Eric Lamar, a long time Secret List member shares his excellent thoughts on staffing-in these tough times. Eric has been involved in the fire service for 30 years, including serving on the NFPA 1500 committee and the NIOSH Board of Scientific Counselors:  
<http://firefighterclosecalls.com/fullstory.php?81368>

**LONG ISLAND FIRE CHIEF BUGGY STOLEN FROM SCENE/CRASHED:**

At least 6 people were hurt in a crash after a teenager stole a chief's SUV in Nassau County, NY. It happened on the campus of Hofstra University when a chief officer of the Uniondale FD apparently left the keys in the vehicle after arriving on the scene of an alarm. The teen jumped in and took off with the lights flashing...the SUV then hit a number of vehicles. The teenager accused of stealing the vehicle was taken to the hospital and is being charged in the case.

**AND ALSO ON LONG ISLAND:**

While not a Firefighter, early Sunday morning, Officer Glenn Ciano, a 45 year old husband, father and 22 yr veteran of the Suffolk County NY PD was killed in the Line of Duty. Officer Ciano burned to death...in an MVA while responding to a call...struck by a **repeat DWI driver** who had just been arrested for DWI in Jan. 09...and who on Sunday, has a blood alcohol level that was more than twice the legal limit. Once again, a sad reminder of how susceptible we all are emergency services to these dirtbags that have no regard for the law. (He walked away). RIP Officer Ciano.

**A LOCAL (OHIO) LOSS OF A FINE FIRE CHIEF:**

In our own area, we mourn the very sad loss of Fairfield Township (Butler County) Assistant Fire Chief Paul McKendry, who died unexpectedly Monday after a brief illness. Chief McKendry, 51, of Fairfield Township, was admitted to Mercy Hospital Fairfield on Feb. 17 after complaining of abdominal pain....but he passed away Monday evening around 1900 hours. Chief Mckendry was a beloved and highly respected Firefighter, Fire Officer community leader, Father, Husband and friend to many. The visitation will be from 4 to 8 p.m. Friday, Feb. 27, at North Fairfield Baptist: 6853 Gilmore Road. The funeral will be at 11 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 28, at the church, with a public visitation beginning at 10 a.m. **Rest In Peace, Chief.**

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 2-25-09 / 0700 hours

**AND:**

Hey....

Well...the **Minnesota State Department of Labor and Industry** has apparently "squealed like a pig" under the pressure of the homebuilders' lobbies ...and announced this week that they will not be adopting the mandatory home sprinkler code this year. Shucks. Now when homes made of glue, 2" x 4" wood, plywood and other fire friendly items, catch fire, and some will...the citizens who are in those homes and the Firefighters who operate in those home have less of a chance of survival. State Government at its best. Not looking out for their citizens...caving under the pressure...shame on 'em. The word is that when the movie version of this episode is made, Ned "Deliverance" Beatty will play the dual role part of the citizens and Firefighters....

**HERE IS MORE:** <http://www.firegeezer.com/2009/02/25/minnesota-caves-in-to-home-builders-lobby/>

(Note: We **spared you** and didn't link **THE** part of "THAT" movie...but you probably know all the words anyway...but here is the next best thing:  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RyKvD-4lxOY> )

**DRUNK EMS DRIVER HEADS TO THE SLAMMER IN DEATH OF 2 CIVILIANS:**

An Evans City EMS driver who killed two Mercer County men in a drunken crash apologized to the victims' families before she was led to jail in handcuffs this morning. Shanea Climo, 23, was sentenced to 11 1/2 to 23 months in jail for causing the Sept. 23, 2007 crash in Marshall that killed Douglas Stitt, 38, of Mercer and Phillip Bacon, 31, of Sharpsville. Climo, who drove for Cranberry Ambulance, was traveling between 64 and 68 mph before she sped through a steady red light at an intersection with a patient in the back, and she slammed into the car Stitt was driving.

**VIRGINIA EMT IN FIREFIGHTER TRAINING LODD REPORT:**

All firefighting recruits will now have to undergo physical examinations before they begin training in Prince William County. Physicals are mandatory for career firefighters in Virginia but optional for volunteers. Recruits will also have to provide a full medical history and undergo lab tests that could detect conditions that would keep the would-be FF from doing his job. Cecilia Turnbough, 42, was an EMT with PW's Dale City VFD when she began her training as a FF. She died in the Line of Duty during that training while maneuvering through a maze in full PPE. A report just issued by Prince William Fire Rescue finds Turnbough died of natural causes. She sadly had a pre-existing heart condition, was obese, asthmatic and had hypertension.

**HERE IS MORE:** <http://www.wusa9.com/news/columnist/blogs/2009/02/lodd-investigative-report.html>

\*\*\*\***REMINDER:** Please take a few minutes and participate in this survey for U.S. Firefighters:  
[www.ipsosresearch.com/secretlist](http://www.ipsosresearch.com/secretlist)  
Take Care-BE CAREFUL.  
BillyG  
The Secret List 2-25-09 / 1616 hours

**AND**

**OHIO FIREFIGHTER DIES IN THE LINE OF DUTY-WHILE IN QUARTERS**

It is with deep regret that we advise you that Toledo (Ohio) Firefighter Mike Darrington age 45, passed away late this afternoon in the Line of Duty while on station. Firefighter Darrington was assigned to Station 14, the station received an alarm and he failed to report to the apparatus. Firefighter Darrington was a member of the department since May 11, 1984. Our sincere condolences to the members of the TFD and FF Darrington's family and friends.

**FLORIDA FIREFIGHTER DIES IN THE LINE OF DUTY: DISEASE CONTRACTED ON THE JOB**

It is with deep regret that we advise you that Martin County Fire Rescue FF Fred Pierno Jr. died Wednesday due to an illness he contracted on the job. FF Pierno has been under

medical treatment since October 2006 for a Hepatitis C Virus infection he sustained while performing his firefighter duties. He's reported to be the 13th firefighter in the USA and the 7th in Florida to be classified as a line of duty death due to a hepatitis infection. Funeral services will be held Monday at St. Martin's De Porres Church in Jensen Beach. The ceremony begins at 11:30, with a procession to Forest Hills Memorial Park immediately following. Our sincere condolences to the members of MCFR and FF Pierno's family and friends.

**WTF?! TEXAS CITY MANAGER PLANS TO CUT FIRE STAFFING ....TO FUND LIBRARIES:**

It looks like libraries in Austin will be spared another "brutal" round of budget cuts, thanks to cuts in the FIRE Department. City Manager Marc Ott proposed cutting library hours by 9.5 hours a week resulting in branch libraries opening later and closing earlier....**but after community outrage voiced at a public hearing last week, Mr Ott decided to restore those hours.** The Austin FD is now making cuts to help fund the libraries and social services. AFD O.T. will be cut by about \$200,000 by not staffing as many fire apparatus with 4 Firefighters at all times. Understandably... the Union local correctly says the cuts will affect their ability to operate as timely and effectively at fires when a company drops from 4 to 3 Firefighters. Simple math.Of course, we will BET that there are some good books in those libraries that would show that city manager that he should strongly reconsider....

**FAILURE TO USE SEAT BELT, SPEED AND INEXPERIENCE CONTRIBUTED TO NY LODD:**

A New York state Labor Department investigation shows that a West Hill volunteer firefighter was not wearing his seat belt when the pumper he was driving overturned and crashed last July 8, killing him in the Line of Duty. Speed and inexperience as a driver also contributed. FF Ryan T. Barker, the driver and lone occupant, was thrown from the apparatus when he lost control on a curve on a narrow, winding road and the vehicle rolled over and slammed into trees. He was returning from a fire call. He left behind his wife of just over a month, and 5 children - their young daughter and 4 children by her previous marriage.

The West Hill FD has been **out of service** since the crash, which took its only apparatus out of service. The apparatus was equipped with a working 2-point restraint (seat belt) system and the WHFD's operating guidelines stated that employees shall wear restraint devices when operating department vehicles.

A lawyer who represented the Barker family, disputed the findings at the time that report was issued. He said investigators unfairly blamed FF Barker and overlooked the fact that he was driving a 30-year-old apparatus that he had complained was difficult to handle. The truck carried a 750-gallon tank with a capacity for about 6,000 pounds of water. But an inspection by the New York State Police Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Unit found the vehicle had no mechanical problems or safety violations.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

**DON'T LIKE FUNERAL DIRECTORS, WIDOWS, ORPHANED KIDS AND LAW SUITS?  
THINK. SEAT BELTS HELP SOLVE THAT.**

BillyG

The Secret List 2-27-09 / 2012 Hours

**AND**

Hey...

**3 Firefighters in Wake County (N.C.) were injured this afternoon when their apparatus overturned while responding.** The Firefighters from the **Stony Hill FD** are currently being treated for non life threatening injuries. They were responding to a house fire call when the truck over turned. 3 Firefighters were taken to Wake Med. Details to follow. **Also in North Carolina**, back on February 12th, Joey Tucker of Burnsville Volunteer Fire & Rescue located in Anson County was involved in a one vehicle crash. The engine, carrying 1500 gallons of water, left the road and did one complete roll. By wearing his seat belt, FF Tucker received minor injuries considering the damage of the truck-**PICTURES are on our home page.**

#### **OUR CONDOLENCES:**

While off duty but FD related, Acton (MA) Firefighter Leo Hayes, 36, was on his way back from an MDA fund raising event on with fellow Firefighter James Routenberg, 24 when their 2005 Jeep Grand Cherokee swerved off the road and hit a tree at about 1700 hours. FF Hayes was DOA and FF Routenberg, who was driving, was flown to UMass Memorial Medical Center in Worcester and released later that night. Our condolences is this sad loss. **While we do not normally forward off duty losses due to logistics, being that the MDA is FF related, we were asked to share and are more than glad to.**

#### **TEXAS MAYOR TERMINATES ENTIRE FIRE DEPARTMENT:**

About 2 dozen volunteer Firefighters in Gregory have been fired ....and they don't know why...they have simply been told they're no longer needed. The Firefighters say they weren't aware of any issues or complaints, they were working for free, and they question if the Mayor, Victor Lara even has the power to fire them. The now former Fire Chief says the Mayor even had his replacement already lined up. The big question in Gregory remains, will there be enough qualified and experienced fire fighters, and adequate amount of fire fighters to respond? There is some kind of an investigation underway...the Gregory city attorney is conducting an "independent investigation" and will present her findings at the city council meeting on March the 4th. Update to follow.

#### **DENVER PLANE CRASH AUDIO:**

The audio has been released today from the tower at Denver International Airport as they found out about the crash of Continental 1404 on take off last December. You will hear the controller making the notifications and trying to direct fire crews into the site. There are also some pretty cool animations showing the jet's path and how close it came to almost hitting the Airport's Fire Station 4 that sits between runways. Thanks to **Dave Statter911** for sending this in and posting:

<http://www.wusa9.com/news/columnist/blogs/2009/02/tower-audio-from-decembers-737-crash-at.html>

#### **IN MEMORY: ANDY FREDERICKS.....AN OUTSTANDING TRAINING OPPORTUNITY:**

It's time to register for the Andy Fredericks Training Days coming up in May. The seminar honors the memory of Andy Fredericks, a well known and respected FDNY member, instructor and author who died in the Line of Duty when we were attacked of September 11, 2001. In addition to also being a volunteer firefighter, Andy began his firefighting career in

Alexandria. The event supports the Fredericks Family Fund established by IAFF Local 2141.

**REGISTRATION INFO:** <http://www.frederickstrainingdays.com/>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 2-28-09 / 1839 hours

**AND**

**RESPONDING MISSOURI APPARATUS STRIKES AND KILLS 7 YEAR OLD CHILD**

**In what can only be described as a nightmare of all parties concerned,** a Kansas City fire apparatus heading with its lights and sirens on to a call hit and killed a young child around 1530 hours this afternoon.

Initial reports are that the victim was a boy who had been walking with a girl. The girl stopped when she heard the siren but the boy didn't and continued into the street....the boy's father said he was 7 years old. The boy's father said he wasn't there when his son was hit and was notified by a family member, but he said 2 witnesses told him that the fire truck's lights and siren were not on....**HOWEVER**, witnesses told police there were other people who did hear the siren and pulled to the side of the road.

**NEW JERSEY MAYDAY:**

2 Firefighters were hospitalized this afternoon in Atlantic County (near Atlantic City) after falling through a floor and into the basement at a working house fire that had started around 0930 hours and had been burning since this morning. 1 **Galloway Township** Firefighter remains hospitalized but in stable condition the other Firefighter has been treated and released. A 3rd Firefighter was treated at the scene for injuries sustained when he was tried to help in the rescue. The basement was reportedly filled with water when the FF's fell into it. Updates to follow.

**APPARATUS CRASH PHOTOS:**

We have posted pictures of Saturday apparatus crash in North Carolina on our home page. Another seatbelt success story...**how 'bout that!?**

**Tell us about your FIRE DEPARTMENT BUDGETS CUTS...STAFFING CUTS....BROWN OUTS etc.**

We are compiling information on FD cuts during these tough economic times. Your info and who you are remains anonymous...we don't care who you are or what your e-mail address is, if you see any articles or have any details on FD budget cuts, brownouts, layoffs, staffing reductions--anything related, send details, article links or just cut'n paste it to us at: [staffing@firefighterclosecalls.com](mailto:staffing@firefighterclosecalls.com)

**Anything that has affected or will impact 2009 and the future fiscal picture of any FD (career or volunteer) ... we are interested in. We don't care where it is from. USA, Canada, wherever...**

**Just send what you have to:** [staffing@firefighterclosecalls.com](mailto:staffing@firefighterclosecalls.com)

We have an old friend who is a FD statistics expert and he is going to compile the info by area, community etc and then we'll post it in an overview type of format. Who knows, the info may be of help to one FD to another etc...and THAT'S the goal.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL,

BillyG

The Secret List 3-2-09 / 2035 hours

**AND:**

Hey...

A North Carolina Volunteer Firefighter is fighting for his life tonight after getting hit by a car while responding to crash today. It started when a car slid into a ditch in Powellsville. **Trap (Bertie County) Volunteer FD Firefighter Timothy King** was responding and had arrived at the crash scene. While putting on his protective vest, another car passing by slid on a patch of ice and crashed into him. **FF King has massive injuries to his legs and is in critical condition.** 2 other women drivers involved in the accident were not seriously injured. However, charges are pending right now against the one who originally hit King. We wish FF King a rapid recovery.

**NOT AN LODD...But Worth Mentioning.....**

While not an LODD, we feel this is worth passing on as so many young people are FF's, EMT's etc. **A FF/EMT who was also a college student, died near an upstate New York campus Sunday had too much to drink at a fraternity initiation ritual.** Arman Partamian, 19, of Flushing, a member of the Geneseo FD, was found unresponsive about 1100 hours yesterday inside a non-sanctioned fraternity known as the Pig House near the SUNY Geneseo campus. **His own FD responded to the run and attempted-unsuccessfully, to save his life.**

Partamian, a sophomore who majored in biology, was at a fraternity party Saturday night and participated in a ritual that called for heavy alcohol consumption. The Pig House is known for booze-filled parties on the weekends....state troopers confirmed that alcohol is being eyed in the death, which appears to have been accidental, and investigators were consulting with the Livingston County D.A. Partamian graduated from Brooklyn Technical High School in 2007. He was a volunteer emergency medical technician at the Geneseo FD, whose members responded to the scene after the student's body was found. Geneseo is located about 45 miles south of Rochester in the Finger Lakes region.

**SOME GOOD NEWS:**

That San Francisco Fire-Medic who was nearly killed a month ago while operating at that dwelling fire has improved enough to be released from the hospital. Christopher Posey was released Friday from San Francisco General's ICU and is "resting comfortably" with his wife and 3 kids at home. He still has significant inhalation injuries including both internal and skin burns, that he has to deal with. 6 SFFD Firefighters, including Posey, a firefighter-paramedic who has worked 18 years with the city, were injured when the roof fell in. Posey was the most seriously hurt in that arson fire.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 3-2-09 / 2115 hours

**AND:**

Hey...

We have been advised that **Firefighter T.C. King of the Trap (NC) Fire Department** who

March 13, 2009

was involved in yesterday's crash is extremely serious. FF. King was first on the scene at the initial crash and was standing at the rear of his POV gearing up when another vehicle ran into him, trapping him between the two vehicles. Both of his legs were completely amputated below the knees and he is in critical conditions. FF. King is 27 years old, has about two years on the fire department, is married and has a two year old child. He did have a good night and did well following surgery; he is now in a second surgery as of 1100hrs. We will provide you additional information as it becomes available, including were best wishes and prayers can be careful.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 3-3-09 / 1215 hours

**AND:**

**A MEXICAN FIREFIGHTER AND PARAMEDIC KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY:  
DURING RESCUE ATTEMPT**

Two people searching for treasure beneath an old Mexican hacienda near San Jose died in a gas-filled tunnel, and two neighbors and a FF and a Paramedic who tried to rescue them also were killed in the Line of Duty yesterday.

The initial victims were looking for goodies in the 15 yard deep tunnel, which burrowed about 50 yards horizontally underground toward the abandoned hacienda residence. Two local construction workers entered the primitive, earthen-walled tunnel to rescue the couple when they needed help, apparently unaware of a dangerous buildup of exhaust fumes from a **gas-powered pump the couple had installed in the tunnel to remove water.** The 2 construction workers died, as did a Firefighter and a Paramedic from nearby towns who later entered the tunnel **without SCBA.** It took specially equipped rescue companies about 20 hours to remove the 6 bodies. Our sincere condolences in the loss of these 2 members..

**THE ABOVE TRAGIC LOSS MAY REMIND YOU OF** the 3 Pennsylvania Firefighters who died in the Line of Duty in May of 1990 while operating inside a well after being exposed to carbon monoxide from the exhaust of a portable gasoline engine-powered pump.

**HERE is the NIOSH report:** <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/reports/face9030.html>

**NON-RESPONDING FD VEHICLE CRASH INJURES SEVERAL TEENAGERS**

And in Colerain Township (Ohio) this evening, a FD mechanic on routine, on duty business, had a vehicle with 6 teenagers go across the roadway directly in the path of the FD vehicle, and cause a crash. 4 of the teens were taken to the hospital. 1 of them was transported by medical helicopter while the other 3 were taken by ambulance. 2 other teens inside the SUV suffered minor injuries. The driver of the Colerain Township Fire/EMS vehicle is a mechanic and he thankfully suffered minor injuries.

**POLICE VEHICLE CRASH: MOBILE DATA TERMINALS:**

While NOT Fire/EMS directly related, with more and more FD's installing mobile data terminal computers, this is applicable. A police officer was hurt after crashing into a tank truck that had stopped at a rail crossing in Jacksonville. Florida Highway Patrol investigators said the officer had glanced at her laptop before her cruiser hit the back of a tractor-trailer stopped at a

railroad crossing on Monday morning. The tractor-trailer was stopped here, as required by Florida statutes, the tractor trailer proceeded forward and that's when the deputy struck it in the rear....the police cruiser was totaled...the truck driver was not hurt and the the tank-truck was empty. Troopers said the officer had looked at her dashboard-mounted laptop computer moments before the crash. Here is more: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/29491400/>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL,

BillyG

The Secret List 3-3-09 / 2200 Hours

**AND**

Hey....

Today, President Obama announced his intent to nominate the Director of the Florida Division of Emergency Management, and former Fire Officer and Paramedic, Craig Fugate to be his FEMA Administrator.

On the nomination of Craig Fugate, President Obama said, "From his experience as a first responder to his strong leadership as Florida's Emergency Manager, Craig has what it takes to help us improve our preparedness, response and recovery efforts and I can think of no one better to lead FEMA. I'm confident that Craig is the right person for the job and will ensure that the failures of the past are never repeated.

Fugate will join Homeland Security Secretary Napolitano for an event in New Orleans tomorrow. More details to follow. Department of Homeland Security Secretary Napolitano said, "FEMA must have experienced leadership to succeed in its challenging mission. Craig Fugate is no stranger to emergency management or to FEMA. He is one of the most respected emergency managers in the nation, and the work he's accomplished in Florida serves as a model for other states to follow. He will be a tremendous asset to FEMA and its employees, and I look forward to working with him."

### **BIO: Craig Fugate, Nominee for FEMA Administrator**

As the Director of the Florida Division of Emergency Management, Mr. Fugate oversees an agency with 138 full time staff. The Division coordinates disaster response, recovery, preparedness and mitigation efforts with each of the state's 67 counties and local governments. In September 2003, the Florida Emergency Management Program became the first state emergency management program in the nation to receive full accreditation from the Emergency Management Accreditation Program. From volunteer firefighter, Paramedic, to Lieutenant with Alachua County Fire Rescue, his 15 year career in local government included serving 10 years as the Emergency Manager for Alachua County, Florida. In May of 1997, he was appointed Chief of the Bureau of Preparedness and Response with the Florida Division of Emergency Management. Over the next four years, the State of Florida faced numerous disasters while continuing to build a nationally recognized emergency management program.

In October of 2001, Mr. Fugate was appointed by Governor Bush as Director of the Florida Division of Emergency Management. With the events of September 11, 2001, the Division was tasked with the role of managing the Federal Homeland Security funding and developing Florida's Domestic Security Strategy with the Florida Department of Law Enforcement.



**Chabot College Fire & EMS News**

Florida's program is recognized as a model for other states. In 2004, Florida was impacted by 4 major land falling hurricanes (Charley, Frances, Ivan, and Jeanne) setting a record in both numbers of storms as well as damages for the State of Florida. In 2005, Florida was again impacted by 4 hurricanes with Hurricane Dennis and Wilma striking as major hurricanes (Category 3 or greater).. 2005 also saw Florida's largest mutual aid response to another state due to impacts of Hurricane Katrina along the Mississippi Coast, over 7000 responders from state and local agencies provided assistance to the State of Mississippi and local communities, additional resources were sent to the State of Louisiana.

In December 2006, Governor Crist reappointed Fugate as Director, the role he continues today. Director Fugate has served as the State Coordinating Officer in 23 Declared State Emergencies, 11 of which were Presidential Declared Disasters totaling over 4.5 billion in federal assistance. Fugate is a native of Jacksonville, Florida.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 3-4-09 / 1303 hours

**AND:**

Hey.....

Bailout is the word of the day...these days, weeks and months.. We hear about it daily in the news. We read about it everywhere. Actually, I keep watching for the article on who is going to bail my family and I out from our more than 50% loss in the stock market? Sound familiar? From President Obama to those who overspent and can't afford the things they "had to have" to those who overspent OUR money and now-they want more....everyone is talking about being bailed out these days.

Actually, I don't want to be bailed out. When we invest in the stock market-we take a chance. It should turn around, I hope. When you buy a house, you "SHOULD" buy only what you can afford-or less. But like a drug dealer taking advantage of a drug addict, the banks kept offering what so many knew they might not afford...but took it anyway. Purchase only what we can afford? Didn't Abe Lincoln and Ben Franklin have something to say about that? Actually Abe said "**you cannot keep out of trouble by spending more than your income**" ....and Ben said "**it's not your salary that makes you rich....it's your spending habits...**"

Humph-silly "old school" thinking.

Of course, in our fire business, when we think of "bailout" we think of something like this:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mBdS1QV3III>

As my old friend and veteran New York FF Vinny C would say, when showing the above video: "**You wanna see-a bailout?...I gotcha bailout rite he-ah, pal...now dat's a bailout!**"

Bailout? More recently and tragically, Firefighters think of that genuine life threatening "bail out" on Black Sunday....when FDNY hero FF's Brendan Cawley, Jeffery Cool, Eugene Stolowski and Joey DiBernardo barely survived their "bailout"..and, of course, the 2 who did not survive and gave their lives in the Line of Duty: Lt. Curtis Meyran, 46, and Firefighter John Bellew, 37, when they bailed out. R.I.P.

And now, we all watch daily as multi-billion dollar corporations ask to be "bailed out" of their self created, selfish messes. I don't know about you, but I don't think the bailouts have worked so far. Maybe it has or it will....but we'll see. What we do know is that the financial emergency - and requests for bailouts - have not put an end to some lavish insane corporate spending ...nor has it stopped bosses from enjoying the good life. On your dime. Citigroup, for example, has received so much bailout money to date that you, as a taxpayer in the USA, are actually now the biggest stockholder. Feel better? It was reported Monday that the company is having a new, \$50 million fancy luxury corporate jet delivered soon. Citigroup which has so far received \$45 billion in bailout money. They **needed** it.

This is during the same time that Elyria, Ohio, for example (among many other communities across the USA) are shutting down 2 of its 3 firehouses. It's the same time that Firefighters are being laid off in Georgia, New England and other places. And in another Ohio city, elected officials have budgeted \$365,000 for 2009 to have a 4th of July celebration in the middle of a recession. This is at the same time that the same city is thinking about raising the city's income tax rate to pay for FD needs. Their taxpayers recently voted down a needed tax levy for their FD. But maybe the tax levy wasn't needed, not if there is over a quarter million bucks for fireworks instead of paying good Firefighters that work. Strange days indeed.

All this at a time when, in addition to firefighters and EMT's, school teachers and cops being laid off, former Lehman Brothers CEO Richard Fuld deeded his \$14 million oceanfront home in Florida to his wife for just \$100 the minimum amount needed for a property transfer. Sheesh-I would have offered him TWICE that amount. Perhaps they just don't get it? I think they do.

The answer is that they just genuinely do not care. Hard for Firefighters and EMS personnel, who care about people that almost never impact them directly, to understand. And then this "new" issue related to FIREFIGHTERS who have been killed in the Line of Duty, came out....a disgusting issue related to AIG. Even as AIG takes billions in bailout money and begs for billions more, AIG is FIGHTING against paying a multimillion-dollar wrongful death award to the families of 2 fallen FDNY Firefighters.

We are talking about the 1998 Brooklyn fire that killed Lt. Joseph Cavalieri and FF's James Bohan and Christopher Bopp. More than 10 years after that fatal fire and more than 2 years after the trial, AIG continues to appeal a civil court jury's **unanimous verdict** in the Line of Duty Deaths of FDNY Lt. Joseph Cavalieri and Firefighter Christopher Bopp. The verdict ordering the payment to the surviving fire families. Cavalieri was married with two daughters, ages 19 and 11. Bopp was also married, and his wife was two months pregnant when he died. A.I.G. could care less. It's all about them..

**READ about the fire and the 3 FF's killed here:**

<http://www.chiefmontagna.com/memorial/memorial.htm>

**HERE is the NIOSH report:**

<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/reports/face9901.html>

FF Bohan, FF Bopp, and Lt Cavalieri were killed while operating at a residential high-rise structure fire. As they went to the tenth floor to search for victims, they were overcome by a

wave of heat and smoke that killed all 3. The automatic closing device on the apartment door had been removed or had malfunctioned. The building's hallway sprinklers did not activate due to a closed valve. Six firefighters were injured in the fire and Bohan, Bopp and Cavalieri were killed in the Line of Duty. And now....AIG simply REFUSES to pay them. Actually, they just don't wanna. AIG is the same insurance company that made headlines last Fall for spending on a lavish spa retreat after receiving federal bailout funds. They can afford to. They just don't wanna. And it's not like it's "their" money...much of it is yours-the taxpayer. They ask for tax dollars to bail them out...but then they deprive the families of heroic firefighters money, money that is rightfully the families.

AIG doing the right thing?...that would be silly old school thinking. AIG could have done the right thing. It instead decided to go to trial but it showed the **same lack of brains, heart and crazy levels of arrogance** that would cause it to lose billions in investments.

Here are more facts:

[http://www.nydailynews.com/money/2009/02/25/2009-02-25\\_aig\\_whines\\_for\\_bailout\\_money\\_as\\_it\\_stall.html](http://www.nydailynews.com/money/2009/02/25/2009-02-25_aig_whines_for_bailout_money_as_it_stall.html)

While the whole fiscal picture in our Country-and all over the world is tough right now, and we are all painfully aware of the issues and extreme risks related to fire department cuts, brownouts and layoffs. But now this issue and the extreme arrogance of A.I.G....very well representing corporate arrogance, hits the bottom.

While Firefighters throughout the USA in almost all cases have to work 2-3 jobs to get by, and volunteer firefighters continue to do that and respond for free, AIG and their arrogant actions represent the complete opposite of what the North American, and the world's fire service, represents every day. As Dennis Smith wrote, in "Report from Engine Company 82"....(paraphrased) **..if you pick up a phone, it may not work....if you plug something it, electricity may or may not work....and while on board, the trains may stop running.....but the one thing citizens can always count on is, the only sure thing, is that firefighters will respond to help when the alarm is pulled".** That's some responsibility, and hopefully budget cutting politicians will keep that in mind. When someone needs us, we respond to do good, with the full trust of those who call us. That's what we do. We are trusted...and often when people are having the worst day of their lives.

How about "that" ...A.I.G?

Take Care-BE CAREFUL,

BillyG

The Secret List 3-4-09 / 1722 hours

(Note: We are collecting articles, stories, reports and data on any and all FD cuts, layoff's, brownouts etc throughout North America. Please send links or any info related to that to: [staffing@FireFighterCloseCalls.com](mailto:staffing@FireFighterCloseCalls.com))

**AND:**

### **OKLAHOMA CITY FIREFIGHTER DIES IN THE LINE OF DUTY-AT STRUCTURE FIRE**

It is with deep regret that we advise you that an Oklahoma City Firefighter suffered a heart attack and died in the Line of Duty while operating at the scene of an apartment fire this afternoon. OKC FD Corporal Christopher Allen Dill was transported to a nearby hospital in

**Chabot College Fire & EMS News**

a life threatening condition where he later died. Dill joined the Oklahoma City FD on June 18, 1993 and was promoted to Corporal on June 18, 1996. The apartment fire destroyed two apartment and damaged several others...it started in a kitchen of a downstairs unit. The woman who lived in that apartment escaped safely, as did a man who lived in the apartment above hers. Our sincere condolences to all affected, especially the OKC FD and the friends and family of Fire Corporal Dill.

**Here is the Oklahoma City FD site:** <http://www.okc.gov/Fire/index.html>

**Here is the Oklahoma City Local 157 IAFF site:** <http://local157.org/>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 3-4-09 / 1908 hours

**AND:**

Hey.....

A drunk driver in North Carolina who hit a **Four Way VFD** brush truck has been charged with assault with a deadly weapon, disorderly conduct by a funeral and reckless driving. Cops also charged him with DWI. The incident started Wednesday afternoon, when his long time girlfriend hit a fire truck that was blocking an intersection for a firefighter's funeral. **She was not wearing a seatbelt and died instantly in the crash.** The couple's 3-year-old son was unrestrained and injured in the crash. Following that, the drunk civilian arrived on the scene and became hysterical then got into a car and drove into three other vehicles, including the fire truck. Photos on our home page.

**MISSOURI FIREFIGHTER RESCUED FROM CRASH/BURNING APPARATUS:**

Boone County firefighter was sent to the hospital Wednesday after rolling her fire engine into a ditch. Volunteer Firefighter Samantha Lamp lost control of her fire truck on Wednesday afternoon. FF Lamp complained of head and neck pain....and she was wearing her seatbelt when her truck rolled over one and a half times while she was on her way to fight a brush fire. Another firefighter responding to the same call helped pull Lamp from the wreckage as it was on fire. Photos on our home page.

**UPDATE: BOSTON FIRE APPARATUS REPORTS POOR CONDITIONS:**

A consultant's report expected today (Friday) about the fire department's maintenance of apparatus will give mechanics and their supervisors a failing grade. The city hired the consultant in the wake of the Ladder 26 crash on Jan. 9 that killed Lt. Kevin Kelley. Details to follow.

**UPDATE: KANSAS CITY FATAL CHILD STRUCK BY APPARATUS INCIDENT:**

The Kansas City FD has released tapes of radio communications involved in an accident in which a 7 year old boy was struck and killed by a fire truck. Some had questioned whether the fire truck's siren was activated when it struck the boy. In the first response transmission, no sirens are heard. Then they are clearly audible in two transmissions from two different vehicles... which were about 10 seconds apart. A half-minute later came the call for an ambulance. The KCMOFD says the tapes prove that sirens were in use, but do not, at least with ordinary listening methods, identify what vehicle or vehicles had the sirens activated. Here are the recordings:

[http://publicbroadcasting.net/kcur/news..newsmain?action=article&ARTICLE\\_ID=1477051&ionID=1](http://publicbroadcasting.net/kcur/news..newsmain?action=article&ARTICLE_ID=1477051&ionID=1)

Here is a DIFFERENT opinion:

<http://www.kctribune.com/article.cfm?articleID=18696>

### **FIREFIGHTERS FURIOUS OVER COPS ACTIONS...but....LOCAL FIRE CHIEF GAVE THE OK:**

New Hampshire Firefighter groups said yesterday they don't want a repeat of a Newport incident where cops disguised themselves as firefighters to make an arrest. Portsmouth Fire Chief Christopher LeClaire said it's important that firefighters always be seen as rescuers, not as threats or adversaries. "Not to Monday-morning quarterback," he said, "but when the line gets blurred, it creates a very dangerous situation for us." **However**, Newport Fire Chief Wayne Conroy (the Chief in the jurisdiction) said a lot of thought went into the plan, and his help let police make the arrest safely in 90 seconds. "To be able to say that firefighters aren't trusted is definitely not the case of why I did this," Conroy said. Cops used a fire truck and firemen's outfits Tuesday night to trick Matthew Miller, 34, into leaving his apartment on Sunapee Street so they could arrest him. Here is more:

<http://www.unionleader.com/article.aspx?headline=Firefighters+hot+over+police+ploy&articleID=4b094cc0-0b91-4fca-8d86-0cd112c36164>

### **MA. FIREFIGHTER SERVING OVERSEAS GETS LAY OFF NOTICE:**

Things are bad fiscally in so many FD's in North America...but this is a new low. A Navy Reservist serving overseas was issued a pink slip by his stateside job at the New Bedford FD and his family is outraged. Tough times have led to 35 layoffs within the New BBFD, including sailor Leo Pike who has been serving in Iraq.....Here is more:

<http://www.cnn.com/video/#/video/us/2009/03/05/dnt.ma.iraq..pink.slip..whdh>

<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/29516038/>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 3-6-09 / 0200 hours

**AND**

Hey.....

A jury convicted an auto mechanic on Friday of **murdering 5 Federal Firefighters** by setting a wildfire that overran them in 2006 as they defended a home in a rural Southern California mountain community. The jury in Riverside County Superior Court found the defendant, Raymond L. Oyler, 38, guilty on five counts of first-degree murder with special enhancements for multiple murder and murder during a felony - arson. Mr. Oyler could face the death penalty in a trial phase beginning Tuesday. The jury also convicted him on 20 counts of arson and 17 counts of using an incendiary device. John R. Hawkins, the county fire chief, said families of the dead firefighters "can rest now knowing that the man responsible will pay for his actions." The fires spanned a period from May 2006 to October 2006. All were in rural Riverside County. We have honored those 5 Firefighters who were killed in the Line of Duty on our home page.

### **Update: MASS. FF CHARGED IN OFF DUTY CRASH/DEATH OF BROTHER FIREFIGHTER**

An Acton firefighter has been charged with motor vehicle homicide after a crash last week that killed his passenger, a firefighter from the same department. FF James Rautenberg, 24 allegedly had a blood alcohol content of .20, more than twice the legal limit for driving. Authorities say he lost control of his 2005 Jeep Cherokee at 5 p.m. on Feb. 26 returning from an MDA fund raiser. The passenger, FF Leo Hayes, 36, of Maynard, was pronounced dead at the scene. Rautenberg faces up to 15 years in state prison.. The men were returning from a fund-raising benefit at a ski area when the crash occurred. Hayes had been a firefighter for 7 1/2 years and was from a firefighting family....his father-in-law used to be deputy chief in Acton, and his brother-in-law is a firefighter in Maynard.

**THINK! Before you CUT THE FIRE BUDGET:**

A six-family apartment building was still standing after, due in part, to a ladder crew that was to be terminated due to spending cuts ....but responded to a fire there. 4 Firefighters from Ladder Company 75 of the Yonkers (NY) FD were the first on the scene of the brown wood-frame building at 34 Clarendon Ave. about 0800 Friday. Here is more:

<http://www.lohud.com/article/20090306/NEWS02/903060321/1018/NEWS02>

**REMEMBERING: SALISBURY, NC LODD**

Today marks the one year anniversary of the Salisbury Millwork Company fire which claimed the lives of **Salisbury, NC Firefighters Justin Monroe and Vic Isler**. Let us never forget the sacrifice they made. Here is more:

[http://cms.firehouse.com/web/online/News/Details-About-Fatal-North-Carolina-Blaze-Emerge/46\\$58792](http://cms.firehouse.com/web/online/News/Details-About-Fatal-North-Carolina-Blaze-Emerge/46$58792)

[http://cms.firehouse.com/web/online/In-The-Line-Of-Duty/Investigation-Continues-into-Salisbury--NC-Lumber-Yard-Fire/39\\$58699](http://cms.firehouse.com/web/online/In-The-Line-Of-Duty/Investigation-Continues-into-Salisbury--NC-Lumber-Yard-Fire/39$58699)

Take Care-BE CAREFUL,  
BillyG  
The Secret List 3-7-09 / 0730 hours

**AND:**

**PA. FIRE POLICE OFFICER HAS HEART ATTACK AT COMMUNITY DETAIL-LODD**

During a **Bart Twp Fire Company** community event at their firehouse, an on-duty fire policeman, John Lawrence, a member of the Bart Twp Fire Company in Lancaster County was directing traffic and fell over with a medical emergency. A CPR instructor close by started CPR immediately and crew from the fire dept. responded with an AED and initiated 1 shock which brought FPO Lawrence back and he was talking to them. John was transported by ambulance to Lancaster General Hospital ER but unfortunately later passed away. **Our sincere condolences to our friends at Bart Twp Fire Company** <http://www.bart51.com/> and especially to the family and friends of FPO John Lawrence.

**NEW JERSEY FIREHOUSE SHUT DOWN/ 12 FF's LAYED OFF---** and five senior fire officials are being demoted to save \$600,000 in the Fire Department budget.

**CHECK OUT CLIFTON NJ FF's WEBSITE:**

<http://www.fmba21.org/>

**RHODE ISLAND FIREFIGHTERS LAID OFF:**

**Chabot College Fire & EMS News**

The city of Woonsocket is moving forward with the layoffs of 11 of its firefighters after distributing notices of the court-allowed terminations on Friday. The layoffs took effect at midnight on Saturday and include 2 Firefighters currently serving with Army Reserve units. They are also the first layoffs to be issued by a Rhode Island community under the state's ongoing budget crisis. The layoffs come after a judge ruled the city could layoff a specific number of its union firefighters to avoid falling into fiscal insolvency. Attempts to fight this have so far failed.

**While we cannot send info on all FD cutbacks on TSL, PLEASE DO SEND US ANY AND ALL INFO, ARTCILE LINKS ETC RELATED TO CUTS, LAYOFFS, BROWN OUTS ETC THAT RELATE TO FIREFIGHTER SAFETY TO: [Staffing@FireFighterCloseCalls.com](mailto:Staffing@FireFighterCloseCalls.com)**

We are in the process of compiling numerous submissions and will be posting applicable information on a new page within FFCC very soon.

**Once again, we post this film on STAFFING, SAFETY & Company Operations called "Smoke Showing" <http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=1975040321393374985&hl=en> Check it out.**

Take Care-Be Careful.

BillyG

The Secret List 3-8-09 / 0018 hours

**AND:**

Hey....

The Pennsylvania state attorney general's office has charged 2 McDonald (PA) Firefighters and another man with **conspiring to burn down a house for fire training purposes despite knowing it contained asbestos.** The charges were filed against the 3 men recently following a yearlong investigation into why a controlled burn was allowed at a house in McDonald. Here is more: <http://www.observer-reporter.com/OR/Story/03-06-McDonald-Fire>

There is no shortage of stories, reports and photos submitted weekly to us related to live fire training details and those instructors involved intentionally ignoring NFPA 1403, local laws, etc...not real smart.

**CHECK THESE for a little history...on FIREFIGHTER DEATH AT LIVE FIRE TRAINING:**

<http://www.firehouse.com/carter/2002/2/0210.html> (Prison for Fire Instructor)

<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/reports/face200138.html> (NY Live Fire LODD)

<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/reports/face200027.html> (Delaware Live Fire LODD)

<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/reports/face200234.html> (Florida Live Fire LODD)

**MSA SCBA NOTIFICATION:**

If your FD uses MSA SCBA's with the URC (RIT) connectors, please review the below notices and make the appropriate inspections. Related problems could possibly result in rapid discharge of the cylinder in seconds and the inability to receive help from your fellow firefighters. Here are the links:

[http://media.msanet.com/www/PDFs/MSANorthAmerica/SafetyNotices/08031-06\(URCQuickFillAdvisory\).pdf](http://media.msanet.com/www/PDFs/MSANorthAmerica/SafetyNotices/08031-06(URCQuickFillAdvisory).pdf)

[http://media.msanet.com/www/PDFs/MSANorthAmerica/SafetyNotices/08014-24\(user%20letter\).pdf](http://media.msanet.com/www/PDFs/MSANorthAmerica/SafetyNotices/08014-24(user%20letter).pdf)

**HOMEBUILDERS GETTING COZY...A WAKE UP CALL:**

Homebuilding associations across the USA are getting real "close" to some un-fire-educated elected officials with their latest attempts to fight residential fire sprinklers...and they are doing well. Virginia is getting nervous, Illinois is taking anti-sprinkler action, Texas is targeted, and well, you know about Minnesota....governments getting "cozy" with some homebuilding associations.

Word is homebuilder associations are going directly to local elected officials (how 'bout that) and getting the politicians really, really nervous. Nervous about "high costs of housing" ..... "sprinkler systems going off" and other related **truth twisted excuses** and false statements fed to the "dwellers" by homebuilding association'ers. **Not sure what we mean? Read some of the comments sent to us from Dave Statter:**

<http://www.wusa9.com/news/columnist/blogs/2009/03/from-front-lines-of-residential.html>

And while they create absolute lame and inaccurate info as noted above, the fact that civilians and Firefighters have and will continue to die in dwelling fires, gets lost.

Of course, amongst this issue, there is **COURAGE IN CANADA** related to **required** residential sprinklers...

...and it is not ALL bad news....

<http://www.ottawacitizen.com/Business/Councillors+back+fire+sprinkler+plan+private+homes/1370323/story.html>

While FD's across North America are fighting just to maintain basic levels of service **for their existing homeowners**, homebuilding associations are taking full advantage of their cozy chances to show cities how to save money, sorta.....by sorta making residential sprinklers the root of the evil economic issues in our country. **Or something like that.**

**Whoa...wait just-a-darn-toot'n minute**.....what if, maybe, just maybe...the housing/economic issues actually do have something to do with cozy relations between some homebuilding associations, banks and unaffordable mortgages? Nahhh...

**CONCERNED** about homebuilding associations performing their follies to YOUR elected officials?

Organize here: <http://www.ircfiresprinkler.org/>

**If not, it may be time to bid "FAREWELL" to required residential sprinklers.....**

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SwoPpqT9tSM>

More details on our news/updates on our home page.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 3-10-09 / 0645 hours

**AND:**



### Chabot College Fire & EMS News

A Webster County Volunteer Firefighter was critically injured in an accident last night (03/09/2009) approximately six (6) miles from the Erbacon VFD. He was critically injured and was sent via Healthnet to CAMC where he is in extremely critical condition with severe head trauma. The person that called me indicated that the firefighter may not survive his injuries.

According to unconfirmed reports, the 2000 gallon Commercial Fire Tanker went off the road on the right, the FF driver over corrected and crossed two (2) lanes of traffic, went through the guardrail, and then down an approximately seventy (70) foot embankment striking a railroad grade. More details will follow on our news/updates on our home page.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 3-10-09 / 1305 hours

#### **AND:**

Hey....

This is an update from this weeks W.Va apparatus crash. A 20-year veteran Firefighter is recovering after he was hurt in that fire apparatus rollover crash on Monday in Webster County. **53-year-old Erbacon FF Daniel Tharp was driving a 2,000 gallon tanker alone when it went over a hill, landing 75-feet below on railroad tracks.** FF Tharp, apparently not belted in, was thrown from the truck as it rolled over.. He was flown via CAMC General in Charleston, where he's currently listed in stable condition. We have posted a picture on our home page. We wish FF Tharp a rapid recovery.

#### **FLORIDA APPARATUS STRUCK:**

And earlier today, while cleaning up after a crash, Holley-Navarre Fire Department's fire apparatus, Engine 41 was struck while firefighters were cleaning up after a crash. Details will be posted.

#### **BOSTON FD APPARATUS UPDATE:**

The BFD has for years employed a "loosey-goosey approach" to "virtually all areas of fleet management," failing to perform adequate preventive maintenance on fire trucks, keeping shoddy records of repairs, and relying on a staff of insufficiently trained firefighters without such fundamental knowledge as how often oil changes are recommended by manufacturers, **according to an outside review. The review by a consultant also concluded that firefighters who drive the trucks are inadequately trained and do not complete sufficient daily inspections of the trucks.** Overall, the department suffers from a lack of defined policies for maintenance, repair, and procurement of apparatus. Here is more: [http://www.boston.com/news/local/breaking\\_news/2009/03/review\\_slams\\_bo.html](http://www.boston.com/news/local/breaking_news/2009/03/review_slams_bo.html)

#### **CLOSE CALL IN IDAHO:**

3 Idaho Firefighters escaped major injury after a floor collapsed underneath them during a Eagle house fire. Crews were called to the house fire on Monday. The 3 Firefighters from North Ada County was on the second floor of the home when the floor gave way. 2 Firefighters were examined at the scene. Another was taken to a local hospital where he was treated and released for some minor muscle injuries.

#### **DO YOU GO ON EMS RUNS? DO YOU USE A STETHOSCOPE?**

March 13, 2009

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

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The authors of this study swabbed 50 stethoscopes of EMS providers presenting to their emergency department (ED) with patients. The swabs were then cultured to detect the presence of methicillin-resistant staph aureus (MRSA). They found 16 (32%) colonized with MRSA. When asked, none of the 16 (32%) could recall the last time their stethoscope had been cleaned.

[www.jems.com/news\\_and\\_articles/columns/Wesley/is\\_mrsa\\_on\\_your\\_stethoscope.html](http://www.jems.com/news_and_articles/columns/Wesley/is_mrsa_on_your_stethoscope.html)

And lastly, a very special thanks to the members of the **Schiller Park (IL) FD** on behalf of Gordon G....everything is great!

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 3-11-09 / 2215 hours

**To subscribe to the Secret List and get these emails for yourself, go to [www.firefighterclosecalls.com](http://www.firefighterclosecalls.com)**

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

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

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### **The budget woes continue, in various forms and fashions:**

With state pension retirement costs rising this year for police and firefighters in Nevada, Reno officials said sharing that cost with employees will be put on the bargaining table when those contracts expire in June 2010. Reno has been paying 100 percent of employee payments to the state retirement system, \$30.1 million in fiscal year 2008-09: [www.rgj.com/article/20090225/NEWS/902250448/1321/news#pluckcomments](http://www.rgj.com/article/20090225/NEWS/902250448/1321/news#pluckcomments)

The City of Austin (TX) City Manager Marc Ott no longer plans to cut library hours to save money. But he said he does want some fire trucks to at times operate with fewer firefighters. Ott on Thursday announced those changes to the \$20 million cost-cutting plan he unveiled earlier this month. He had proposed cutting library operations at every branch by 9.5 hours a week. But he said he reconsidered after talking with residents in small groups and at a town hall meeting and hearing how much they value libraries. The taxpayers are the ones that set our level of service, and

<http://www.statesman.com/news/content/news/stories/local/02/27/0227citybudget.html>

The City of Portland (OR) is having to dip into it's reserves to cover costs, and is even having to say no to the fire department for certain budget requests:

[http://www.oregonlive.com/portland/index.ssf/2009/02/portland\\_to\\_dip\\_into\\_contingen.html](http://www.oregonlive.com/portland/index.ssf/2009/02/portland_to_dip_into_contingen.html)

The City of Brea (CA) is faced with having to close one of it's four stations due to budget problems:

<http://www.ocregister.com/articles/fire-city-staff-2325280-station-brea>

Tight budgets have forced the North Lyon County Fire District (NV) to eliminate a key position, the fire marshal: [www.krnv.com/Global/story.asp?S=9910630&nav=menu113\\_2](http://www.krnv.com/Global/story.asp?S=9910630&nav=menu113_2)

Budget cuts are hitting the Grand Junction (CO) Fire Department:

<http://www.nbc11news.com/home/headlines/41056312.html>

The City of Alameda (CA) Fire Department is looking at combining the positions of police chief and fire chief to save some money – something that is not uncommon in tough times: <http://cms.firehouse.com/content/article/article.jsp?id=63063&sectionId=46>

Members of the Las Vegas (NV) Chamber of Commerce and police and firefighter unions bickered during a Senate hearing Wednesday over a survey that states public-sector employees make more than their private-sector counterparts. Before we get emotional about this issue, read some of the reader comments, which are a great reality check for all of those you hear say they think we are underpaid:

<http://www.kvbc.com/Global/story.asp?S=9910399>

After a long and contentious debate, the Escondido (CA) City Council voted 3-2 Wednesday night to force Escondido's 84 firefighters to accept the elimination of longevity pay hikes, 401(k) contributions and salary increases for education and training. Again, for a reality check, take a look at the reader's comments regarding firefighter / public safety salaries – something we all need to be sensitive about in these challenging times:

<http://www.nctimes.com/articles/2009/02/25/news/inland/escondido/z86752965921ed76b882575690010fef6.txt>

Faced with a serious cash flow problem, the Tri-City Fire District (AZ) used to provide fire services to the rural Arizona town of Miami – Miami is located about 83 miles East of Phoenix. At the stroke of midnight March 5th Tri-City Fire pulled out of the town. That is because it said Miami is behind more than a year in payments and owes the district more than \$102,000.

[http://www.abc15.com/content/news/centralsouthernarizona/story/AZ-town-cant-pay-firefighters-concerned-about/9O6\\_mnROakegexPVKJgqlg.csp](http://www.abc15.com/content/news/centralsouthernarizona/story/AZ-town-cant-pay-firefighters-concerned-about/9O6_mnROakegexPVKJgqlg.csp)

The Crescent Fire District in Oregon has had to eliminate two paramedic positions, and this decision is not being liked by residents. The challenging part is that personnel costs (wages and benefits) typically make up over 90% of a fire department budget. When the money is just not there or is being reduced, there are very few ways to reduce costs short of eliminating or not filling positions:

[http://www.oregonlive.com/portland/index.ssf/2009/02/portland\\_to\\_dip\\_into\\_contingen.html](http://www.oregonlive.com/portland/index.ssf/2009/02/portland_to_dip_into_contingen.html)

The City of Lodi (CA) is offering the Fire Chief and other city employees early retirement packages to help reduce operating costs. The Lodi Firefighters have

already agreed to take a 2.5 percent pay cut and reduce daily minimum staffing from 15 to 12 firefighters. Both cuts will remain in effect through June 2010:

[http://www.recordnet.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20090308/A\\_NEWS/903080321](http://www.recordnet.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20090308/A_NEWS/903080321)

And in Modesto (CA), city officials are also offering early retirement programs, and expect to lose 100 employees in the city (out of 1,239) through lay offs or early retirements: <http://www.modbee.com/local/story/624479.html>

Vallejo (CA), already mired in bankruptcy, is considering slashing city salaries and services by 20 percent to make up for an unexpected \$12 million budget deficit. The city staff is recommending the council eliminate 30 sworn police positions, from a current staff of 115, and close two fire stations (in addition to the two they closed last year):

<http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2009/03/10/BAPV16C69H.DTL&tsp=1>

Layoffs hit the Lake Havasu (AZ) Fire Department:

<http://www.azcentral.com/news/articles/2009/03/12/20090312firelayoffs.html>

A recently released state audit of Grays Harbor Fire District 5 confirms a declining financial stability at the East County district. "The District lacks the necessary cash flow to meet daily operating expenses," the audit stated:

[http://www.thedailyworld.com/articles/2009/03/10/local\\_news/04news.txt](http://www.thedailyworld.com/articles/2009/03/10/local_news/04news.txt)

The tough economy has many cutting back on the way they spend money and the City of Grand Junction (CO) is no different. As part of the City's cutbacks, the Grand Junction Fire Department has been forced to reduce its overall budget three to four percent: <http://communitypress.cincinnati.com/article/AB/20090311/NEWS0108/303110062>

Budget battles often tear at police and fire protection: [www.sltrib.com/news/ci\\_11769110](http://www.sltrib.com/news/ci_11769110)

Denver (CO) Mayor John Hickenlooper's decision to lay off 11 sheriff's deputies Wednesday could be a prelude to similar cuts for police officers and firefighters if they don't accept pay and benefit cuts:

[http://www.denverpost.com/technology/ci\\_11892626](http://www.denverpost.com/technology/ci_11892626)

A cash-strapped Oregounty: <http://www.ktvz.com/Global/story.asp?S=9830638>

The Atlanta Fire Department temporarily closed five stations Saturday because 23 firefighters were on furlough and 18 called in sick, leaving the department understaffed, a spokesman said:

<http://www.ajc.com/metro/content/printedition/2009/02/22/firestaff0222.html>

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**Public Relations Nightmare Stories:**

Gloucester (MA) Mayor Carolyn Kirk released an independent report today that was strongly critical of the fire department's response to a downtown blaze 14 months ago that killed a man and destroyed an apartment building and synagogue. Fire Chief Barry

McKay announced that he wouldn't "stand in the way" of recommended changes and would retire. "The report points to a department in need of major reform," said Kirk, who commissioned the report shortly after taking office in January 2008. Obviously the Charleston (SC) Fire Department was not the only department in need of major reform. The sad part is that there are probably many fire departments facing similar potential tragedies – tragedies that could have been prevented; these two departments just got caught: [www.boston.com/news/local/breaking\\_news/2009/02/mayor\\_issues\\_sc.html](http://www.boston.com/news/local/breaking_news/2009/02/mayor_issues_sc.html)

And now the Fire Chief who is going to retire because of the findings in the story above is now questioning the findings; a must read for any current or future company officer and chief officer: <http://www.firerescue1.com/labor-issues/articles/457487-Mass-fire-chief-questions-reports-dire-findings/>

The Boston Firefighters Union has asked its members not to drink alcohol until they're done marching in the South Boston St. Patrick's Day parade this year: <http://www.thebostonchannel.com/news/18881395/detail.html>

Seven (7) American Canyon (CA) Fire Protection District Firefighters have returned the raises they received after receiving fake college degrees: [http://www.timesheraldonline.com/news/ci\\_11789362](http://www.timesheraldonline.com/news/ci_11789362)

A Denver (CO) Fire Captain that was terminated in 2005, has been arrested for slashing the tires of his former firefighters at various Denver stations: <http://www.thedenverchannel.com/news/18796124/detail.html>

There are more questions than answers regarding the internal operations of the Boring Rural Fire District: [http://www.sandypost.com/news/story.php?story\\_id=123613047078765200](http://www.sandypost.com/news/story.php?story_id=123613047078765200)

The fallout from a prostitution sting in a Council Bluffs hotel apparently will cost Omaha Fire Capt. Darren Bates his job: [http://www.omaha.com/index.php?u\\_page=2798&u\\_sid=10583420](http://www.omaha.com/index.php?u_page=2798&u_sid=10583420)

Two off-color videos have more members of the Cincinnati (OH) Fire Department in hot water. The videos – which spoof the Bud Light beer "Real Men of Genius" commercials and surfaced on the Internet – look to have been shot in a Cincinnati fire house, including a scene in which a buxom female sits on the back of a fire truck and spreads the Jaws of Life with her legs. The videos were produced for and shown during the department's annual Christmas party, a source of one in a string of embarrassing and unlawful events that has tarnished the department's reputation. Former Cincinnati firefighter Joseph Dance admitted in March 2007 that he was at fault for the fatal drunken-driving crash that killed a 26-year-old Delhi Township mother just before Christmas 2006. Dance served two years of a four-year sentence after admitting to driving the wrong way on Interstate 71 and striking a car driven by Lisa Kreutzer, who died. Three Cincinnati firefighters have been arrested this year alone, and nearly 60 members of the department have been disciplined since January 2005 for administrative or criminal infractions, according to an Enquirer analysis of records: <http://www.azcentral.com/news/articles/2009/03/12/20090312firelayoffs.html>

It was two years ago that the Las Vegas Sun began reporting on a problem that had gotten out of hand. Nearly one out of every six full-time public employees in the Las Vegas Valley — including nearly two-thirds of all Clark County firefighters — had earned more than \$100,000 in 2006:

<http://www.lasvegassun.com/news/2009/mar/04/not-good-enough/>

She's a deputy fire marshal in Bend (OR), but now Susie Lovisco could be facing serious consequences after an alleged reckless driving incident 20 months ago that went to trial Tuesday:

<http://www.ktvz.com/Global/story.asp?S=9941945>

The chief of Whatcom County (WA) Fire District No. 18 was suspended for one week - but will still receive half his wages - at the district board of commissioner's monthly meeting Thursday, March 12:

<http://www.bellinghamherald.com/102/story/829209.html>

The Pennsylvania state attorney general's office charged two McDonald (PA) firefighters and another man with conspiring to burn down a house for fire training purposes despite knowing it contained asbestos:

<http://www.observer-reporter.com/OR/Story/03-06-McDonald-Fire>

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The San Rafael (CA) Fire Department determines it is best to farm out it's dispatching services to the county, something more departments should consider doing. What this allows them to do is draw from a larger resource pool while still keeping their identity (or local control as some fret over) but most importantly, doing what is right for not only the firefighters, but the community they protect and serve:

<http://www.topix.net/forum/source/marin-independent-journal/TAC7EEQ37AQ9U83B2>

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Authorities said a gunman shot a Titusville man Monday, but the victim started punching firefighters who were trying to help him:

<http://cms.firehouse.com/content/article/article.jsp?id=63010&sectionId=46>

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The Port Angeles Fire Department and Clallam County Fire District No. 2 in Washington State have chosen a name for a proposed combined fire department -- Port Angeles Fire and Rescue. In today's world, it does not make sense (fiscally, safety reasons, economy of scale, redundancy of services, lack of services, etc.) for smaller departments to be on their own. Here is an example of a couple of departments looking at combining forces:

<http://www.peninsuladailynews.com/article/20090305/news/303059991>

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About 140 fire and rescue personnel from across the country spent this past weekend at the National Fire Academy networking and learning how best to spread the Courage

to be Safe message., and to attempt to reduce our embarrassing rate of firefighter fatalities we experience in the U.S. each year:

<http://cms.firehouse.com/content/article/article.jsp?sectionId=46&id=62998>

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Last January, an 89-year-old woman, who was a long time Bend resident, passed away. In her will Helen Lorenz left approximately one million dollars to the Bend Fire and Police Departments, to be split equally. A great example of why we treat everyone with courtesy, compassion and respect. I just wish there were more folks like this out there to help provide necessary funding for fire departments since the average citizen does not want to pay any more taxes and is barely surviving:

<http://kdrv.com/news/local/96524>

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Tualatin Valley (OR) Fire & Rescue is looking at various progressive methods to be able to successfully adapt aggressively to changes in population, types of responses, staffing levels, call volume, etc.:

[http://www.oregonlive.com/news/index.ssf/2009/03/tualatin\\_valley\\_fire\\_rescue\\_ad.html](http://www.oregonlive.com/news/index.ssf/2009/03/tualatin_valley_fire_rescue_ad.html)

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American Medical Response (AMR) is awarded the ability to continue providing 9-1-1 ambulance service to the residents of San Mateo County (CA):

[http://www.santacruzsentinel.com/nationalbreaking/ci\\_11832671](http://www.santacruzsentinel.com/nationalbreaking/ci_11832671)

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The Northwest Fire / Rescue District near Tucson, AZ has decided it will no longer respond to "snake removal" calls, unless of course it is a true, life threatening emergency. Before you laugh, many departments in desert areas like Arizona respond to "snake removal" calls:

<http://www.azstarnet.com/sn/crime/282538>

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A must read for any current or future company officer - New Company Officers: 10 Things You Need to Do:

<http://www.firerescue1.com/Columnists/Linda-Willing/articles/466679-New-Company-Officers-10-Things-You-Need-to-Do/>

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Boston (MA) Fire Commissioner Roderick J. Fraser is vowing to replace the department's firefighter-run maintenance division with civilian mechanics following a report by a city-hired consultant that recommends sweeping changes to the department's vehicle repair methods. "It's an ugly, ugly report," Fraser said this afternoon. "It doesn't have much good to say about maintenance." A must read for any fire department mechanic, firefighter, company officer, or chief officer:

<http://cms.firehouse.com/content/article/article.jsp?sectionId=46&id=63036>

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**Building construction must see video and must read article – the dangers of lightweight truss construction:**

<http://www.firerescue1.com/Columnists/Fire-Department-Safety-Officers-Association/articles/455060-Dangers-of-Lightweight-Construction/>

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***Please be safe out there and make every day a learning opportunity – because it is!***

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 Stay Safe!

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

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**Chabot College Fire Technology & EMS web site:** [www.chabotfire.com](http://www.chabotfire.com)  
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**\*\*\* PLEASE FEEL FREE TO PASS THIS ON TO YOUR FRIENDS OR CO-WORKERS\*\*\***

**The Fine Print:**

- If you would like to be added to our mailing list (no, I won't give your email address out to others), email me at [sprziborowski@chabotcollege.edu](mailto:sprziborowski@chabotcollege.edu) and I will add you to the list. Benefits of being on the mailing list include being notified when the latest Fire & EMS news is published, and being notified of firefighter testing opportunities, volunteer opportunities, or training opportunities.



**Chabot College Fire & EMS News**

- If you know of someone who wants to receive this newsletter (as well as other updates) email me at [sprziborowski@chabotcollege.edu](mailto:sprziborowski@chabotcollege.edu) and I will place them on the mailing list.
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- If you are subscribed to my email mailing list and you are not receiving anything (a problem some earthlink, aol, hotmail and yahoo users have at times), make sure you add my name – Steve Prziborowski and the email address I use to send this newsletter and other fire and EMS related news items out – [sprziborowski@aol.com](mailto:sprziborowski@aol.com) to your address book, safe list, white list, etc. Since I mass mail items to thousands of people, some email providers may think these items are spam or junk mail, even though they are not. If you have not received anything from me in over two weeks, email me to let me know so that I can attempt to troubleshoot the issue.