



FIRE & EMS NEWS

May 14, 2010

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

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

SUMMER 2010 FIRE TECHNOLOGY SCHEDULE

Registration for the Summer 2010 semester has begun for some students, and is scheduled as follows:

Summer Registration Dates:

- **Continuing students by priority:** already in process.
- **Early decision students:** already in process.
- **New and Former students:** beginning May 17th

The following fire-technology related courses are going to be offered this Summer:

COURSE	DAY	TIMES
FT 95 (Work Experience) **Must also be registered in FT 96**	TBA	TBA
FT 96 (Work Experience Seminar) **Must also be registered in FT 95** Note: Class only meets on the following dates: June 16, 23, 30, July 14 August 4	Wednesdays	1800 to 2150 hours
Health 61 (Emergency Response – EMS First Responder)	Mondays and Wednesdays	0900 to 1340 hours

NOTE: The above information is to the best of my knowledge as of the time this went to print. For the most up-to-date information (including room numbers & registration numbers) regarding Summer 2010 scheduling, check the Chabot College web site at <http://banner-web.clpccd.cc.ca.us:700/>

My suggestion to everyone is to register as soon as you are eligible to. Classes fill up very quickly, and with more people wanting to become firefighters, we don't see our numbers of students decreasing, only increasing.

FALL 2010 FIRE TECHNOLOGY SCHEDULE

Registration for the Fall 2010 semester has begun for some students, and is scheduled as follows:

Fall Registration Dates

- **Continuing students by priority:** already in process.
- **Early decision students:** already in process.
- **New and Former students:** beginning May 17th

The following fire-technology related courses are going to be offered this Fall:

COURSE	DAY	TIMES
FT 50 (Fire Protection Organization) Note: This section (Monday morning) will be a Hybrid course with on-campus meetings and 20 lecture hours conducted over the internet. Online lecture schedule will be available on the first day of class.	Monday (am)	0800 – 1150 hours
FT 50 (Fire Protection Organization)	Monday (pm)	1800 – 2150 hours
FT 51 (Fire Service Operations)	Tuesday (pm)	1800 – 2050 hours
FT 52 (Firefighter Safety & Survival)	Wednesday (am)	0900 – 1150 hours
FT 52 (Firefighter Safety & Survival) Note: This section (Wednesday afternoon) will be a Hybrid course with on-campus meetings and 24 lecture hours conducted over the internet. Online lecture schedule will be available on the first day of class.	Wednesday (pm)	1800 – 2050 hours
FT 53 (Fire Behavior & Combustion)	Tuesday (mid)	1500 – 1750 hours
FT 54 (Fire Prevention Technology)	Thursday (pm)	1900 – 2150 hours
FT 56 (Building Construction for Fire Protection)	Wednesday (pm)	1900 – 2150 hours
FT 89 (Firefighter 1 Academy evaluation) Note: Class only meets on the following dates: - October 12, 14 and 16 (Tue/Thu/Sat) - November 17, 19 and 21 (Wed/Fri/Sun)	Tue & Thurs (pm) Saturday (all day) or Mon & Wed (pm) Sunday (all day)	1700 – 2050 hours 0830 – 1650 hours 1700 – 2050 hours 0830 – 1650 hours
FT 90A (Firefighter 1 Academy) **Must also be registered in FT 90B and 90C**	Tue & Thurs (pm) Saturday (all day)	1700 – 2050 hours 0830 – 1650 hours
FT 90B (Firefighter 1 Academy) **Must also be registered in FT 90A and 90C**	Tue & Thurs (pm) Saturday (all day)	1700 – 2050 hours 0830 – 1650 hours

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COURSE	DAY	TIMES
FT 90C (Firefighter 1 Academy) **Must also be registered in FT 90A and 90B**	Tue & Thurs (pm) Saturday (all day)	1800 – 2150 hours 0830 – 1650 hours
FT 91A (Wildland Firefighting-1 Basic: Cal Fire 69 hour wildland course) Note: Class only meets on the following dates: November 30, December 2, 4, 5, 7, 9, 11, 12, 14, 16, 18 and 19	Tue & Thurs (pm) Saturday (all day) Sunday (all day)	1700 – 2150 hours 0800 – 1750 hours 0800 – 1650 hours
FT 91B (Haz Mat 1 st Responder-Operations) Note: Class only meets on the following dates: November 16, 18, 20 and 21	Tue (pm) Thurs (pm) Saturday (all day) Sunday (all day)	1800 – 2215 hours 1700 – 2115 hours 0800 – 1730 hours 0800 – 1730 hours
FT 91C (I-200; Basic ICS) Note: Class only meets on the following dates: November 19, 11, 13 and 14	Tue & Thurs (pm) Saturday (all day) Sunday (all day)	1700 – 2115 hours 0800 – 1730 hours 0800 – 1730 hours
FT 95 (Work Experience) **Must also be registered in FT 96**	TBA	TBA
FT 96 (Work Experience Seminar) **Must also be registered in FT 95** Note: Class only meets on the following dates: August 19, September 2, October 7, November 4 and December 16	Wednesday (pm)	1800 – 2150 hours
Health 61 (First Responder)	Tuesday (mid)	1400 – 1750 hours
Health 61 (First Responder)	Tuesday (pm)	1800 – 2150 hours
Health 61 (First Responder)	Friday (am)	0830 – 1250 hours
Health 81 (EMT) **Must also be registered in Health 83**	Wednesday (all day)	0830 – 1845 hours
Health 83 (Extrication and Triage) **Must also be registered in Health 81**	Saturday (one day only – November 6)	0830 – 1620 hours
Health 85 (EMT Refresher) Note: Class only meets on the following dates: November 30, December 2, 4, 7, 9 and 11	Tue & Thurs (pm) Saturday (all day)	1800 – 2150 hours 0800 – 1550 hours
PHED2FSC (Fire Science Conditioning)	Mon & Wed (mid)	1300 – 1415 hours
PHED2FSC (Fire Science Conditioning)	Wednesday (pm)	1800 – 2050 hours

NOTE: The above information is to the best of my knowledge as of the time this went to print. For the most up-to-date information (including room numbers & registration numbers) regarding Fall 2010 scheduling, check the Chabot College web site at <http://banner-web.clpccd.cc.ca.us:700/>

My suggestion to everyone is to register as soon as you are eligible to. Classes fill up very quickly, and with more people wanting to become firefighters, we don't see our numbers of students decreasing, only increasing.

FIRE SERVICE SPECIAL EVENT:

Livermore-Pleasanton Firefighters Foundation

and

WENTE
V I N E Y A R D S



2nd Annual

HOOK AND LADDER RUN

Sunday, June

6, 2010

5K RUN/WALK, 10K RUN AND KIDS ONE-MILE FUN RUN

Press Release:

The Livermore-Pleasanton Firefighters foundation will be Hosting the 2nd Annual Hook and Ladder Run Sunday, June 6, 2010 at Wente Vineyards (5050 Arroyo Rd. Livermore, CA 94550). There will be a 5K run/walk, 10K run and a kids 1 mile fun run. The event benefits the Livermore-Pleasanton Firefighters Foundation which is a non-profit 501 (c) 3 that supports: Injured and Fallen Firefighters, the Burn Foundation and Local Charities in the Tri-Valley. Registration is \$35.00 for the 5 or 10K and \$15.00 for the kids 1 mile fun run and will begin at 6:30 a. m. Both the 5 and 10K will start at 8 a. m. The kids 1 mile run will start about 9:30 a. m. The 5K is a run/walk that is 50% paved and 50% dirt road and is stroller friendly. The 10K is 90% dirt road and 10% paved road. Strollers are not allowed in the 10K. Both runs travel through Sycamore Grove Park and are very flat with only one hill on the 10K. The Kid's One-Mile Fun Run (for ages 12 & under) will take place at Wente Vineyards. No dogs. Awards will be given 3 deep in each age group (M & F) 12 and under, 13-19, 20-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, 60+. Special prizes for overall top 3 Male and Female race winners 5K and 10K run. Water and refreshments will be provided at the end of the race. Wente Vineyards will have additional food and wine tasting for purchase. No picnicking. Many of the event sponsors will have booths and all participants receive a tee shirt and gift bag. The event is very family oriented and attendance is expected to be 800 to 1000 participants. Event website: www.onyourmarkevents.com - You can also register online until June 3.

Thank you,

Matt Thau
Firefighter and Foundation Director
Livermore-Pleasanton Firefighter Foundation

The Livermore-Pleasanton Firefighter Foundation is a 501(c) 3 with a tax ID number of: 26-1572487

Registration Form:

Start Time: 8 a.m. (Registration/check-in: 6:30 a.m.)

Place: Wente Vineyards - 5050 Arroyo Rd, Livermore, CA 94550

Benefits: The Livermore-Pleasanton Firefighters Foundation is a non-profit 501(c)3 that supports: Injured and Fallen Firefighters, Burn Foundation and Local Charities in the Tri Valley.

Course: The 5K is a run/walk that is 50% paved and 50% dirt road and is stroller friendly. The 10K is 90% dirt road and 10% paved road. Strollers are not allowed in the 10K. Both runs travel through Sycamore Grove Park and are very flat with only one hill on the 10K. The Kid's 1 Mile Fun Run (for ages 12 & under) will take place at Wente Vineyards at about 9:30 a.m. No dogs.

Send to: "On Your Mark" P.O. Box 1199 Arnold, CA 95223 - Make checks payable to: **Livermore-Pleasanton Firefighters Foundation (LPFF)**

Bib Pickup: Those who have sent in registration forms that are POSTMARKED no later than May 26, 2010 (or registered online by May 31, 2010) may pick up their race packet and T-shirt at Fleet Feet Sports, 310 Main Street, Pleasanton Friday June 4th till Sat at noon. Final mail-in registration must be postmarked by June 1st, final online registration will close at midnight on June 3rd. After these dates registration will only be available on race day.

Awards: 3 deep in each age group (M & F) 12 and under, 13-19, 20-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, 60+ (Special prizes for top 3 Male and Female race winners 5K AND 10K RUN)

Water and refreshments will be provided at the end of the race. Wente Vineyards will have additional food and wine tasting for purchase. No picnicking.



_____ LAST NAME		_____ FIRST NAME	
_____ STREET		_____ CITY	
_____ STATE	_____ ZIP	(_____)_____ PHONE	_____ CIRCLE
			_____ AGE
			_____ FIREFIGHTER?
_____ EMAIL ADDRESS			

T-Shirt: S - M - L - XL - XXL (Pre-Registered receive shirt prior to start).

Select Event

- 5K RUN/WALK \$30 Pre-Registered prior to June 3rd (\$35 thereafter and race day) _____
- 10K RUN \$30 Pre-Registered prior to June 3rd (\$35 thereafter and race day) _____
- 1-MILE KIDS RUN \$10 Pre-Registered prior to June 3rd (\$15 thereafter and race day) _____

WAIVERS SIGNED AT PACKET PICKUP OR RACE DAY
Additional forms or register online at www.onyourmarkevents.com

FIRE SERVICE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY:

The [Sedona \(AZ\) Fire District](#) announces two separate hiring lists – one for **Firefighters** and one for **Firefighter/Paramedics**:



Sedona Fire District *2010 Firefighter Hiring List*

SFD is looking for qualified applicants to establish two (2) separate hiring lists for Firefighters:
(1) for Firefighter EMT and (1) for Firefighter Paramedic!

Minimum qualifications include:

- High School Diploma or GED equivalent
- Current AZ Drivers License
- Arizona State EMT (or Paramedic) Certification
- AZ State or IFSAC FF I and II Certification or completion of Firefighter training curriculum from an accredited community college equivalent to NFPA 1001 standards
- HAZMAT/First Responder Operations Qualified
- Successful completion of Basic Wildland Firefighter Training as outlined in NWCG 310-1
- Candidate Physical Ability Test (CPAT) from a licensed agency (community college, private testing agency, etc.) valid within 1 year of SFD application date (a copy must be submitted with your SFD application)

Firefighter Base Pay is \$40,983/annually plus \$2.03/hr. Paramedic Incentive if applicable Plus Excellent Benefits!

Go to <http://www.sedonafire.org> and click on the Divisions/Human Resources link to download an application to mail to Mandi Garfield at the address below or email it to mgarfield@sedonafire.org or fax to 928-204-8916.

Applicants may apply at SFD, Station 1 at
2860 Southwest Drive, Sedona, AZ 86336

Closing date is June 25, 2010 at 1700 hours.

FIRE SERVICE TRAINING OPPORTUNITY:

Scott Goodwin Associates

Tactics and Strategy Workshop

Presented By Scott Goodwin

June 23 & 24, 2010

Ontario, CA

3110 East Guasti Road

Ontario, CA 91761

Tactics and Strategy Workshops are geared for current and aspiring Company and Chief Officers. You will gain confidence with improving simulation skills for your next promotional exam. Course includes participation in 25 simulations over 2 days covering:

- Size Up
- Positioning Tactics
- Fire Attack
- Rescue & RIC
- Support
- Incident Command System
- Divisions & Groups
- Intelligence Gathering
- Decision Making based on Intelligence Simulations

Scott has over 30 years in the Fire Service, more than 20 years as a Company/Chief Officer, and has been an Incident Commander on thousands of incidents. Scott brings his wealth of experience to life in the Tactics and Strategies Workshops featuring simulations utilizing five-sided simulator technology. His unique, simple approach to command and simulations will improve your skills, but most importantly make you a better Fire Ground Commander.

- Register today!
- Cost: \$550
- Class size limited to 10 students
- Email: "scottgoodwinassoc@ymail.com to reserve your spot in the class

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

USFA Announces Arson Awareness Week Theme for 2010

April 29, 2010

Emmitsburg, MD — The United States Fire Administration (USFA) announces the theme for the 2010 Arson Awareness Week (AAW): **Community Arson Prevention**. USFA and its partners will use the week of May 2nd to the 8th to focus public attention on the value of community arson prevention and the resources and support available to reduce this crime.

The goal for this year's AAW is to focus attention on the horrific crime of arson and provide communities with tools and strategies to combat arson in their neighborhoods, businesses, schools, and places of worship. The USFA is partnering with the International Association of Arson Investigators, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, USAonWatch, National Association of State Fire Marshals, National Volunteer Fire Council, and the Insurance Committee for Arson Control.

"A strong neighborhood is the backbone of our cities and towns," said Kelvin J. Cochran, United States Fire Administrator. "A community arson prevention program can generate a spirit of teamwork bringing law enforcement, the fire service, and the people together to combat the crime of arson." According to the USFA's NFIRS data and the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), an estimated average of 316,600 intentional fires are reported to fire departments in the United States each year, causing injuries to 7,825 firefighters and civilians. In 2006, ten firefighters died as a result of arson. In addition to needless injury and death, an estimated \$1.1 billion in direct property loss occurs annually.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation's (FBI) 2008 Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) statistics showed that 14,011 law enforcement agencies reported 62,807 arsons. Arsons involving structures (e.g., residential, storage, public, etc.) accounted for 43.4 percent of the total number of arson offenses. Mobile property (e.g., cars, motorcycles, etc.) was involved in 28.9 percent of arsons, and other types of property (such as crops, timber, fences, etc.) accounted for 27.7 percent of reported arsons.

The average dollar loss for all types of arson was \$16,015. Average arson damages for structures were \$32,364 and \$7,890 for motor vehicles. Arsons of industrial and manufacturing structures resulted in the highest average dollar losses — an average of \$212,388 per arson.

Arson robs communities of its valuable assets – lives and property. Arson destroys more than buildings; it can devastate a community resulting in the decline of the neighborhood through increased insurance premiums, loss of business revenue, and a decrease in property values.

For more information, including a media kit for the [2010 Arson Awareness Week campaign](#), please visit the USFA's Web site at www.usfa.dhs.gov.

FIRE SERVICE TRAINING OPPORTUNITY:

Firenuggets.com

PRESENTS

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

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

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

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

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

NOTE: The seminars are going to be held at:

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

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

USFA and NIOSH Initiate Study of Cancer among Firefighters

April 21, 2010

Contact: USFA Press Office (301) 447-1853

Emmitsburg, MD. – The United States Fire Administration (USFA) and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) are partnering on a study to examine the potential for increased risk of cancer among firefighters due to exposures from smoke, soot, and other contaminants in the line of duty. "There is a need to have a comprehensive study of the incidence of cancer in the fire service involving objective medical and epidemiological oversight. We have lost too many firefighters from this disease," said USFA Administrator Kelvin J. Cochran. "USFA is pleased to work with NIOSH in this initiative."

This multi-year USFA supported NIOSH study will include over 18,000 current and retired career firefighters. The project will improve upon previously published firefighter studies by significantly increasing the number of individuals for whom health data will be analyzed. A larger study provides greater statistical reliability. The study will also improve on past studies by analyzing not only deaths from cancer, but also the incidence of certain cancers that have higher survival rates than others, such as testicular and prostate cancer, as well as deaths from causes other than cancer. This will improve researchers' ability to estimate risk for various cancers and to compare risk of cancer with risks for other causes of death.

"NIOSH has worked extensively with partners in the fire service to address occupational safety and health risks for firefighters," said NIOSH Director John Howard, M.D. "We appreciate the funding and support from the U.S. Fire Administration as we engage the scientifically complex question of firefighting and cancer risk."

Firefighters are exposed to smoke, soot, and fumes from fires that contain substances classified by NIOSH as potential occupational carcinogens or by the National Toxicology Program as known human carcinogens or substances reasonably anticipated to be human carcinogens. These may include byproducts of combustion such as polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, as well as contaminants from building products such as asbestos and formaldehyde.

This NIOSH study supported by USFA is intended to enhance current firefighter safety knowledge and inform ongoing efforts to further characterize the cancer risk associated with these exposures due to firefighting operations. During this study, researchers will establish the population of over 18,000 career firefighters from health records of both suburban and large city fire departments.

By analyzing deaths and cancer cases among those firefighters, NIOSH will attempt to determine 1) whether more cancers than expected occurred among the cohort, and 2) whether cancers are associated with exposures to the contaminants to which the firefighters may have been exposed.

NIOSH is a federal agency which conducts research and makes recommendations for preventing work-related injury, illness, and death. NIOSH's research includes a national program to investigate fatal traumatic injuries and other causes of line-of-duty deaths among firefighters. More information about NIOSH can be found at www.cdc.gov/niosh. Additional information about NIOSH's program to investigate firefighter deaths in the line of duty, and to make recommendations for preventing such deaths, can be found at www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/.

Further information about this partnership effort may be found on the [USFA Web site](#).

ENTRY LEVEL FIREFIGHTER PREPARATION SEMINAR IN DENVER, CO:

The following information is provided by Craig Freeman of www.FireCareers.com

On **May 23, 2010** the "**Fire Service Testing Seminar**" will be held in Denver, Colorado at the PPA Event Center.

The day long class being sponsored by the; Firefighter Career Training Group, a Denver area group of Metro firefighters, that will focus on Entry Level Firefighter hiring.

As a guest speaker I would like to invite everyone who is looking for a career in the fire service to come out and join us for a full day of recruitment information. As a guest speaker I have agreed to offer a FREE 3-MONTH SUBSCRIPTION to FIRECAREERS.com for all attendees of the seminar.

About The Seminar:

Learn Proven Oral Board and Written Test Strategies. Learn what it takes to excel on the C-Pat or Physical Fitness test. Our staff of Professional Firefighter Oral Board assessors will discuss every aspect of the firefighter testing process in this informative yet casual seminar. Spend 8 hours to learn what it takes to get the "Job of a Lifetime!" Lunch is provided and parking is Free!

Date: May 23, 2010 Time: 8:00am - 4:30pm
Location: PPA Event Center 2105 Decatur St. Denver, Co. 80211
Cost: \$ 89.00 Lunch Included, Registration at the door: \$ 99.00

- learn how to separate yourself from the competition
- learn proven written test strategies
- learn what to expect and how to train for CPAT/ physical fitness testing
- learn how assessment centers grade candidates
- avoid oral board pitfalls
- learn to highlight your experience and attributes
- win a free oral board preparation session

About Firefighting In Colorado:

The Department of Labor is projecting an average of 310 job openings per year statewide till 2014. There will be lots of competition for these openings that the Colorado Department of Labor projects over the next year and beyond. State wide over 5,000 career firefighters are employed with about half working in the Denver metro area.

Register for the seminar by following this link: <http://firecareertraining.com/seminars.php>

Respectfully, Craig Freeman

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES AT THE NATIONAL FIRE ACADEMY:

STUDENT RECRUITMENT FOR

Leadership Strategies for Community Risk Reduction - P200

- New August 2010 First Pilot Offering

The United States Fire Administration's National Fire Academy is conducting the first pilot class at the National Emergency Training Center (NETC) in Emmitsburg, MD for its newly developed 6-day course *Leadership Strategies for Community Risk Reduction*.

The pilot class is scheduled Sunday, August 15 through Friday, August 20, 2010, with students arriving on Saturday, August 14 and departing on Saturday, August 21, 2010.

Course Description:

This course is designed to enhance knowledge and skills necessary to lead and manage fire prevention, community risk reduction initiatives, illness prevention and health promotion at the local level. This course will give students tools and techniques to raise the level of importance for prevention within their organization. The course will demonstrate how fire prevention and other risk reduction initiatives can benefit them directly and individually in providing a safer work environment. Students will be guided through a process that shows how to strategically build support internally and externally for community risk reduction, the steps and activities necessary to sustain programs and how these come together to create effective risk reduction programs. The ultimate goals of the course are to develop fire and EMS leaders and managers who are committed, in word and deed, to comprehensive multi-hazard community risk reduction.

Course units include:

- Leading the Process of Strategic Community Risk-Reduction – examination of individual perspectives toward risk and LODD deaths in the United States versus other countries.
- Assessing Community Risk – identification of leading community risk issues through an assessment process.
- Community Risk Reduction as a Strategic Process – the science supporting how risk can be prevented and/or managed. Identification, justification and application of intervention strategies and the development of an implementation/evaluation plan.
- Challenges of Organizational Change - Identifying when change is needed, what type of change is required, and the best strategy for creating and sustaining the change.
- Building Organizational and Community Equity - How to build support inside the organization for risk reduction and how to build a positive relationship with the community.

Pre-course assignment: There is an assignment due before class which involves identifying local risks and reading assignments.

Student Selection Criteria: Individuals in emergency services, especially those in fire and EMS operations, such as company officers or field supervisors who have responsibility for fire or injury prevention and community risk reduction initiatives at a local level. Individuals assigned to fire/injury prevention or community risk reduction divisions/bureaus who are new to prevention or those who would like to enhance their skills.

Application Procedure:

Students must complete FEMA General Admission application (Form 75-5, 2-page) available on the USFA website – <http://www.usfa.fema.gov/fire-service/nfa/nfa-abt1c.shtm#75-5>

Completed applications should be mailed or faxed by Tuesday, June 1, 2010 to:

National Emergency Training Center
Office of Admissions, I-216
16825 S. Seton Avenue
Emmitsburg, Maryland 21727

- Completed applications may also be faxed to the Admissions Office at (301)447-1441.
- Applicants should not make plans to attend the pilot until notified by the NETC Admissions Office.
- Stipends for eligible students are available for attendance at pilots. Attendance at pilot courses does not prevent an eligible student from obtaining another stipend within the same fiscal year.

PROMOTIONAL PREPARATION COURSES:

By popular demand, I have scheduled more **promotional preparation courses** over the next few months! It's never too early to start preparing for your next promotional exam!

Upcoming Scheduled Classes:

- Monday **October 4** and Tuesday **October 5** and Wednesday **October 6, 2010** – San Ramon, CA

Please check my website at www.code3firetraining.com for the most up-to-date information on class locations and dates as I am currently in the processing of scheduling classes through early 2011.

Class size is limited, so register early!

**How To Excel At Fire Service
Promotional Exams!**

-
- Tired of not getting promoted off of your last fire service promotional examination?

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

- **Preparing for an upcoming promotional process?**
- **Want to do so well you won't have to take the promotional examination again?**
- **Then this class is for you!**

TOPICS TO BE COVERED INCLUDE:

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

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

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

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

Class Details:

San Ramon, CA	
Dates:	Monday October 4 and Tuesday October 5 and Wednesday October 6, 2010
Location:	San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District Administration Classroom 1500 Bollinger Canyon Road San Ramon, CA 94583
Time:	0900 to 1700 hours each day
Cost:	\$330.00 for the three-day session

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

Assistance to Firefighters Grants Application Period to Open April 26, 2010

April 23, 2010

The Department of Homeland Security has posted the FY 2010 Assistance to Firefighters Grants (AFG) Program Guidance on the AFG Web site. The application period is scheduled to begin on Monday, April 26, 2010, at 8:00 a.m. Eastern Time (ET). Applications for these grants must be received by Friday, May 28, 2010, at 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time (ET). Nationally, the AFG awards, which will be distributed in phases, will ultimately provide approximately \$390 million to fire departments and nonaffiliated emergency medical service organizations throughout the country. AFG awards aim to enhance response capabilities and to more effectively protect the health and safety of the public with respect to fire and other hazards. The grants enable local fire departments and emergency medical services organizations to obtain training, conduct first responder health and safety programs, and buy equipment and response vehicles.

An applicant tutorial is available at www.firegrantsupport.com. The tutorial provides valuable grant information and will walk you through the preparation and submittal of competitive applications. In addition, the applicant tutorial will provide an overview of the funding priorities and evaluation criteria. The AFG Program is administered by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Grant Programs Directorate in coordination with the U.S. Fire Administration.

Applicants who have questions regarding the Assistance to Firefighters Grants opportunity should contact the help desk at 1-866-274-0960 or at firegrants@dhs.gov. During the application period, the help desk will operate Monday to Friday, from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. (EDT), but is prepared to revise hours of operation based on volume and demand.

For access to the FY 2010 Assistance to Firefighters Grants Program Guidance or FAQs visit www.firegrantsupport.com/afg/.

FIRE SERVICE TRAINING OPPORTUNITY:

CALM THE CHAOS! - MASTERING FIREGROUND COMMAND

2-DAY SIMULATION WORKSHOP

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

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

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

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

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

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

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

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

ANTHONY KASTROS IS A 22-YEAR VETERAN OF THE FIRE SERVICE. HE IS A BATTALION CHIEF WITH SACRAMENTO METRO FIRE DISTRICT. HE IS AUTHOR OF THE BOOK AND VIDEO SERIES, "MASTERING THE FIRE SERVICE ASSESSMENT CENTER", BY FIRE ENGINEERING THAT FOCUSES ON SIMULATION STRATEGY AND TACTICS. CHIEF KASTROS IS AN FDIC INSTRUCTOR, TEACHING FIREGROUND TACTICS AND LEADERSHIP/TEAM BUILDING FOR FIRE DEPARTMENTS THROUGHOUT THE UNITED STATES. ANTHONY IS THE PROGRAM DIRECTOR FOR THE SACRAMENTO METRO FIRE COMMAND TRAINING CENTER AND CURRENTLY A LINE BATTALION CHIEF SUPERVISING 10 COMPANIES.

JUNE 14 AND 15, 2010 – BERKELEY FIRE DEPARTMENT - \$250.00
Go To www.trainfirefighters.com FOR ONLINE REGISTRATION

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

USFA Releases Grill Fires on Residential Properties Report

April 30, 2010

Washington, DC — The Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) United States Fire Administration (USFA) issued a special report today examining the characteristics of grill fires on residential properties. The report, [Grill Fires on Residential Properties](#) (PDF, 663 Kb), was developed by USFA's National Fire Data Center and is further evidence of FEMA's commitment to sharing information with fire departments and first responders around the country to help them keep their communities safe.

Grills, hibachis, and barbecues on residential properties continue to be a high fire risk," said Kelvin J. Cochran, United States Fire Administrator. "It is crucial that households be mindful of fire safety when using these pieces of equipment, especially as the summer season approaches. Please join with the USFA in sharing this report's information with your communities so that the necessary precautions can be taken to help prevent fires and save lives."

The report is part of the Topical Fire Report Series and is based on 2006 to 2008 data from the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS). According to the report, an estimated 5,700 grill fires on residential properties occur annually in the United States, resulting in an estimated average of 10 deaths, 100 injuries, and \$37 million in property loss. Over half (57 percent) of grill fires on residential properties occur in the four months of May, June, July, and August and almost half (49 percent) of these fires occur during the hours of 5 to 8 p.m. In addition, 32 percent of grill fires on residential properties start on patios, terraces, screened-in porches, or courtyards, while an additional 24 percent start on exterior balconies and unenclosed porches. Finally, propane is the power source in 69 percent of all grill fires on residential properties.

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

For further information regarding other topical reports or any programs and training available at the United States Fire Administration, visit www.usfa.fema.gov.

EMS CONTINUING EDUCATION OPPORTUNITY:

Greetings!

Thought you would want to know about our upcoming evening lectures which will be held at the SFPA from 6-8 pm on the dates listed below. We'll feed you and give you CE! Free to members - others \$15 - such a deal! Sign up now at www.sfparamedics.org!

More info to follow! Mark your calendars now!!

June 9, 2010 – Breathe Easy - Update on the Management of COPD Exacerbations

Steven Hays, MD, Medical Director, Advanced Lung Therapies and Lung Transplantation, California Pacific Medical Center.

Dr. Hays will cover the pathophysiology of COPD, the current treatments available and those on the horizon, basic management strategies and the warning signs of respiratory failure during a COPD exacerbation.

More exciting presentations to follow! Look forward to seeing you here!

Theresa

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Theresa Farina
Director of Development, Member & Client Relations
San Francisco Paramedic Association

Follow the SFPA on Facebook and Twitter! (SFPA1)

Check out our website for upcoming classes and events!

657 Mission Street, Suite 302
San Francisco, CA 94105
(415) 543-1161 phone, Extension 306
(415) 543-0415 fax
webpage: <http://www.sfparamedics.org>

AHA'S OUTSTANDING TRAINING CENTER FOR THE WESTERN REGION NORTH!

FIRE SERVICE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY:

The Woodside Fire Protection District Invites Applications for:
Firefighter Paramedic

The Position:

Under general supervision of a Fire Officer, responds to fire and other emergencies, including the protection of life, property, and environment. Assists in the maintenance of fire apparatus,

fire stations, surrounding grounds, and various inspections. Performs other duties as required.

Salary and Benefits:

- Salary per month \$7,396.45- \$9,438.00.
- Medical plan including dental and vision coverage for employee, spouse, and dependent children.
- PERS Retirement program 3% @ 50.
- Vacation, holiday, and sick leave benefits.

Minimum Qualifications:

- Must be 18 years of age or older and have graduated from high school or equivalent.
- ***Must possess and maintain a California State Paramedic License at time of job offer.***
- Must possess and maintain a valid class "C" State of California Driver's License.
- Must possess a current CPAT card.

Application Process:

An official Woodside Fire Protection District employment application and resume must be submitted to:

**Woodside Fire Protection District
Attn: Battalion Chief Kevin Butler
3111 Woodside Road
Woodside, CA 94062
650-423-1126**

- Applications are available at the above address and online at the WFPD website, www.woodsidefire.org.
- They are not available for distribution via email, U.S. Mail or fax.
- Based on an initial in-depth screening process, the 100 most qualified applicants will be invited to participate in a written test.
- **Application Deadline – 5pm Friday May 7, 2010**
- **No late applications or certifications will be accepted.**
- **Woodside Fire Protection District is an Equal Opportunity Employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, disability, sex, age, national origin, or sexual orientation.**

For more information about the **City of Woodside**, visit their website at:
www.woodsidetown.org

For more information about the **Woodside Fire Protection District**, visit their website at:
www.woodsidefire.org

FIRE SERVICE INFO FROM THE NATIONAL FALLEN FIREFIGHTERS FOUNDATION:

www.Firehero.org :: [Donate Now](#) :: [Contact Us](#)



National Fallen Firefighters Foundation

News Alert

Foundation E-News Alert

April 26, 2010

[Pierce And Harley-Davidson NFFF Full Throttle Support Campaign Approaches \\$250,000 Milestone](#)

National Fallen Firefighters Foundation (NFFF), with the support of Pierce Manufacturing Inc., an Oshkosh Corporation [NYSE: OSK] company, and Harley-Davidson Motor Company [NYSE: HOG] today announced that their NFFF Full Throttle Support campaign to assist the nonprofit National Fallen Firefighters Foundation has generated donations approaching \$250,000. In addition, NFFF together with Pierce and Harley-Davidson named the winner of the NFFF Full Throttle Support II sweepstakes. Representatives from both companies presented the keys of a custom, one-of-a-kind Harley-Davidson® Fat Boy® Firefighter Special Edition motorcycle to Captain James Anema of the North Whidbey Fire and Rescue Department located on North Whidbey Island, Wash. The presentation took place at the Fire Department Instructors Conference (FDIC) in Indianapolis, Ind.

The sweepstakes winner is a six-year volunteer with the North Whidbey Fire and Rescue Department. "I supported the NFFF Full Throttle Support campaign both last year and this year, and I can't imagine a finer cause for firefighters," said Captain Anema. "Because many in the NFFF have been through a tragic loss, they understand better than the rest of us what is needed to help the survivors. Being selected is a responsibility that I will not take lightly. I am already networking with firefighters on regional events where this beautiful motorcycle can be used to help tell the NFFF story."

» **Read:** [The Full Article on FireHero.org](#)

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



According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), an average of 317,000 intentional fires are reported to fire departments in the United States each year causing injuries to almost 7,800 firefighters and civilians and an estimated 1.1 billion dollars in property loss. Arson can devastate a community resulting in the decline of the neighborhood through increased insurance premiums, loss of business revenue, and a decline in property values. For these reasons, the theme for National Arson Awareness Week, May 2–8, is Community Arson Prevention. The goal for this year's Arson Awareness Week is to focus attention on the horrific crime of arson and to provide communities with tools and strategies to combat arson in their neighborhoods, businesses, schools, and places of worship.

[Learn More »](#)

FIRE TRAINING & EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES:

**TAKE FIRE TECH CLASSES ON THE INTERNET
REGISTER FOR SUMMER 2010 CLASSES, NOW!**

Fire Technology Classes (Entirely on-line)

- Fire Protection Organization
- Fire Prevention Technology
- Fire Protection Equipment & Systems
- Building Construction for Fire Protection
- Fire Behavior & Combustion
- Fire Hydraulics
- Apparatus & Equipment

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

FALL 2010 SEMESTER: The Fall 2010 Semester, which begins August 23, 2010, will begin Priority Registration June 28, 2010 and Online Registration July 3, 2010. In addition to the Fire Technology and other regularly scheduled classes, the **Fire Officer Hybrid classes** will be offered. These classes, particularly the Fire Officer classes, will fill fast. They strongly suggest that you enroll as a student now, if not already a Allan Hancock College Student, and register for classes at the first opportunity. They will send additional info on the Fall Semester when registration starts.

CANDIDATE PHYSICAL ABILITY TEST (CPAT) INFORMATION:

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

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

CPAT TESTING CENTER LOCATIONS:

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

Northern California
526 Commerce Way
Livermore, CA 94551

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

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

FIRE SERVICE PROMOTIONAL PREPARATION CLASSES BY ANDONI KASTROS:



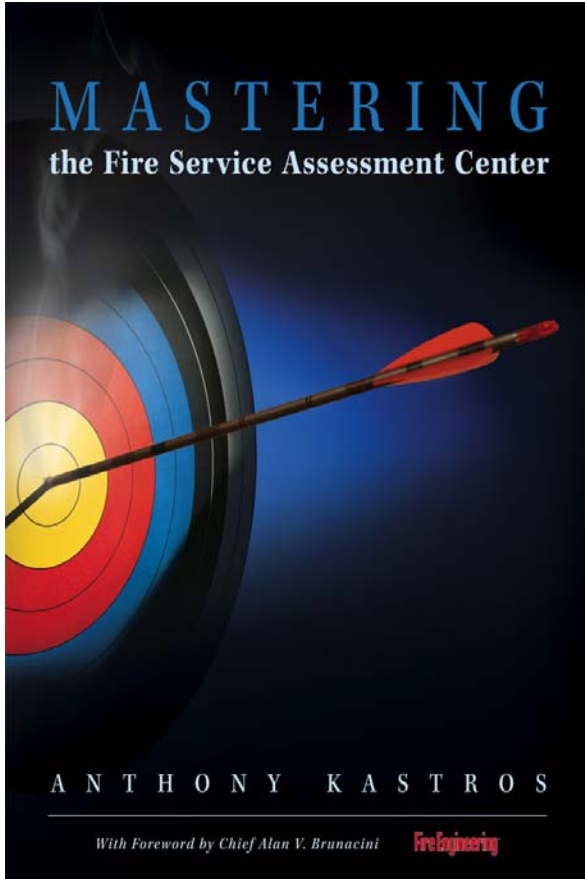
MASTERING THE FIRE SERVICE ASSESSMENT CENTER

4-DAY WORKSHOP

INSTRUCTOR: ANTHONY KASTROS, AUTHOR OF
MASTERING THE FIRE SERVICE ASSESSMENT CENTER
BY FIRE ENGINEERING

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

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



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

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

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

REGGIE - SAN JOSE FD

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**MAY 18 - 21, 2010 - ANAHEIM, CA.
JUNE 7 - 10, 2010 - EL DORADO HILLS, CA
\$495.00***

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

EVERYONE GOES HOME FIREFIGHTER SAFETY INFORMATION:



[Everyone Goes Home® Firefighter Safety Video Contest
Deadline Extended to June 1, 2010](#)

May 10, 2010
News Alert


There is still time to submit your entry for the *Everyone Goes Home®* Safety Video Contest! The contest, sponsored by the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation and the *Everyone Goes Home®* program, with generous support from Fireman's Fund will now run until June 1, 2010.

Departments are asked to show their safe culture by creating a video based on at least one of the 16 Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives. The 16 Firefighter Life Initiatives were developed by the American fire service in 2004 as a move toward reducing preventable firefighter line-of-duty deaths and injuries. In 2005, the *Everyone Goes Home®* program was developed to ensure that firefighters have the tools they need to reduce firefighter line-of-duty deaths and injuries and promote a culture of safety.


All departments, regardless of type or size are encouraged to submit their videos that focus on training, health and safety, and risk reduction. These resources may appear on the EveryoneGoesHome.com website for use by other firefighters across the country to promote safety within their department. Video submissions will be reviewed based on the official contest rules and judged for their quality content rather than their production quality.

- » Read: [The Full Article on EveryoneGoesHome.com](#)
- » Download: [Everyone Goes Home® Safety Video Contest Entry Packet](#)


» For More Information Visit: www.everyonegoeshome.com




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



Homeland Security



Fireman's Fund[™]
Insurance Company

A company of **Allianz** 

FIRE TRAINING & EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES:

Contra Costa County Fire Training & Safety Officers Association
“Committed to Firefighter Training and Safety”

Fire Fighter Close Calls:

Lessons Learned To Prevent the Next 100

Sponsored by Contra Costa County Fire Training & Safety Officers Association and The “Nobody Gets Left Behind” Training Group

Seminar Description: A Firefighter Close Call can happen to anyone in any department. Each day we come to work believing that it will be “an ordinary day” until the unthinkable happens and we find ourselves in a life and death situation; it can happen to the 20-year veteran or the 20-month rookie. It takes a very courageous person to step up and say, “Learn from my experience”. We have to care enough about each other to share this valuable information that could save the lives of fellow firefighters. In this seminar, we will hear from firefighters who experienced a close call and have had the courage to share the experience with others in order to prevent the next 100. Please join us and feel free to share your own experiences.

Seminar Dates: Monday, June 7, 2010
(Also being offered June 8 in Foster City, CA – see below website for more details on that class)

Time: 0900 – 1630

Location: Los Medanos Community College
Science Bldg, Room SC136
2700 East Leland Rd.
Pittsburg, CA 94565

Cost: \$75.00 (lunch included)

Registration: www.leerescue.com/NGLB
nglbtraining@rescuenet.com
Lee & Associates Rescue Equipment (831) 338-7692

Topic 1: 65th St. Incident Review T. Billiter-Sac City FD T10
Topic 2: 65th St. Post Incident Report S. Clough-Sac Metro FD
Topic 3: Stilt Court Incident J. Helvin-Sac City FD
Topic 4: FF Near Miss Reporting B. Van Ert-Downey FD

Instructor Staff: Fire Captain Jeff Helvin Sacramento City FD
Fire Captain Scott Clough Sacramento Metro FD
Fire Captain Brad Van Ert Firefighter Near Miss Reporting
Fire Fighter Tilden Billiter Sacramento City FD

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

USFA Announces Arson Awareness Week Theme for 2010

April 29, 2010

Emmitsburg, MD – The United States Fire Administration (USFA) announces the theme for the 2010 Arson Awareness Week (AAW): **Community Arson Prevention**. USFA and its partners will use the week of May 2nd to the 8th to focus public attention on the value of community arson prevention and the resources and support available to reduce this crime.

The goal for this year's AAW is to focus attention on the horrific crime of arson and provide communities with tools and strategies to combat arson in their neighborhoods, businesses, schools, and places of worship. The USFA is partnering with the International Association of Arson Investigators, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, USAonWatch, National Association of State Fire Marshals, National Volunteer Fire Council, and the Insurance Committee for Arson Control.

"A strong neighborhood is the backbone of our cities and towns," said Kelvin J. Cochran, United States Fire Administrator. "A community arson prevention program can generate a spirit of teamwork bringing law enforcement, the fire service, and the people together to combat the crime of arson." According to the USFA's NFIRS data and the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), an estimated average of 316,600 intentional fires are reported to fire departments in the United States each year, causing injuries to 7,825 firefighters and civilians. In 2006, ten firefighters died as a result of arson. In addition to needless injury and death, an estimated \$1.1 billion in direct property loss occurs annually.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation's (FBI) 2008 Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) statistics showed that 14,011 law enforcement agencies reported 62,807 arsons. Arsons involving structures (e.g., residential, storage, public, etc.) accounted for 43.4 percent of the total number of arson offenses. Mobile property (e.g., cars, motorcycles, etc.) was involved in 28.9 percent of arsons, and other types of property (such as crops, timber, fences, etc.) accounted for 27.7 percent of reported arsons.

The average dollar loss for all types of arson was \$16,015. Average arson damages for structures were \$32,364 and \$7,890 for motor vehicles. Arsons of industrial and manufacturing structures resulted in the highest average dollar losses — an average of \$212,388 per arson.

Arson robs communities of its valuable assets – lives and property. Arson destroys more than buildings; it can devastate a community resulting in the decline of the neighborhood through increased insurance premiums, loss of business revenue, and a decrease in property values.

For more information, including a media kit for the 2010 Arson Awareness Week campaign, please visit the USFA's Web site at www.usfa.dhs.gov.

EMS VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES AROUND THE BAY AREA:

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

- Pre-Hospital Trauma Life Support Classes - Volunteers Needed -

Dates / Locations / Times:	- Tuesday	May 18, 2010	from 1200 to 1700 hours (Berkeley, CA)
	- Wednesday	May 19, 2010	from 1200 to 1700 hours (Berkeley, CA)
	- Wednesday	May 24, 2010	from 1200 to 1700 hours (San Francisco, CA)
	- Thursday	May 25, 2010	from 1200 to 1700 hours (San Francisco, CA)
	- Tuesday	June 15, 2010	from 1200 to 1700 hours (Sausalito, CA)
	- Wednesday	June 16, 2010	from 1200 to 1700 hours (Sausalito, CA)
		**Go to their website at www.sfparamedics.org and click on Volunteer Info (under About) to confirm the above dates and times and to register as a volunteer.	
You will receive:	Valuable experience watching paramedic level (or higher) students perform patient assessments. Learn from their plusses and minuses. You will also receive a free San Francisco Paramedic Association t-shirt.		
Your role:	As a volunteer, you will be moulaged and designated to role-play a victim of a trauma emergency scenario. Please wear loose, old, comfortable clothing, as you may be on the floor for some scenarios.		
To register / More information:	Call the San Francisco Paramedic Association for more information at (415) 543-1161 (tell them Steve at Chabot sent you) or visit their website section on volunteer opportunities at www.sfparamedics.org/pages/about/volunteer.php		

FIRE SERVICE TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES:

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

Firehouse Expo – *Baltimore, MD* - July 20 through 25, 2010
Go to www.firehouseexpo.com for more information.

Fire Rescue International – *Chicago, IL* - August 24 through 28, 2010
Go to www.iafc.org/fri for more information.

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

FIREFIGHTER EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES:

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

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

- www.firerecruit.com

- www.firecareers.com

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

FIREFIGHTER FATALITY INFORMATION:

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

Name:	John Polimine
Rank:	Firefighter
Age:	51
Gender:	Male
Status:	Volunteer
Years of Service:	2
Date of Incident:	05/01/2010
Time of Incident:	1230hrs
Date of Death:	05/01/2010
Fire Department:	Scalp Level & Paint Volunteer Fire Company
Address:	PO Box 363, 807 Main ST, Windber, PA 15963
Fire Department Chief:	Michael Alexander

Incident Description: Firefighter Polimine suffered a heart attack and collapsed after finishing a fire-suppression session at the Cambria County Fire School. Polimine and others were in a basic essentials class for firefighters, with multiple stations and tasks, including

May 14, 2010

www.chabotfire.com

interior firefighting operations. Firefighter Polimine was treated at the scene and then transported to the Miners Medical Center where he passed away.

Incident Location: Cambria County Fire School, 211 Ott Road, Patton, PA.

Funeral Arrangements: Pending

Memorial Fund Contact and Address: Pending

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

To date, 27 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2010; 26 from incidents that occurred in 2010 and 1 from a previous year incident. Year-to-date monthly and annual USFA firefighter fatality reports are posted online @ http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/statistics/ff_stats.shtm

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

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

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

Hey,

I met Chief Tommy Carr (originally from Montgomery County, MD and now Chief of Charleston, S.C.) sometime back in the late 70's at FDIC. To understand, back then, FDIC was in Memphis and the exhibit hall had about 2 dozen trucks. I am writing this from Indianapolis many, many FDIC's later-and like everything else, FDIC has changed. Some things change for the good and if you are here at FDIC-or have attended in recent

years-you understand what I am talking about. We all change as well-and sometimes we have control over the changes in our lives and sometimes we simply do not. We spend a lot of time with our website and The Secret List writing about things and events that have changed lives-so we can learn. And that's what this issue of The Secret List is about.

I received a call a day or so ago letting me know that Chief Carr wanted the following information shared with the fire service. I personally spoke with him today and we chatted for a while and without a doubt-once again, Tommy is demonstrating the same courage he had when he first became a Firefighter-and has exhibited throughout his career. Courage that will benefit others. Without a doubt, he is facing a life altering issue, a "multi-alarm" event that is personally affecting him, those he works with and those he loves. The following words are direct from Chief Tom Carr of the Charleston, SC Fire Department as sent to his Firefighters-and one he wants shared with all Fire Fighters everywhere not because he personally has an issue-but because he personally wants to help Fire Fighters understand this disease that significantly affects FIRE FIGHTERS-affects us greater than the average population.

From Chief Tommy Carr:

As you may know I am a strong advocate of the organization supporting fire fighter health. In order to establish confidence in the medical support system, fire fighters must have total confidence that their personal medical situation is confidential. I do not take the decision to share my medical information with you lightly. But I feel it's important that I share some personal health information with you. I have been diagnosed with Parkinson's disease (PD). Parkinson is not fatal, but currently it is a non-curable, degenerative, and a debilitating disease. It generally doesn't affect critical thinking and normally advances slowly. You may know this as the disease that Michael J. Fox, Pope John Paul, Janet Reno and Mohamed Ali have. It is difficult to diagnose because there aren't specific tests for Parkinson's and each person is affected differently.

Currently my symptoms are a soft, raspy voice, some balance issues, some tremors in my hands and face, and a lack of facial expression. Symptoms are controlled to some degree by medication although there can be fluctuations during the day. My soft voice is the most frustrating. In the past I had a strong voice and rarely used a microphone. But I still wake up every morning ready to get at the days activities. As the chief executive officer of the Charleston Fire Department, my responsibility is not fighting fires but fighting, cheerleading, and facilitating for you folks on the street. My career plan is to continue to implement our CFD vision. We have made a great deal of progress but there is plenty left to do. We have established a great leadership team which is very effective.

I also want to help other fire fighters understand Parkinson's, its risk and how your environmental exposure as a fire fighter increases your risk of having PD. There is a study that states in the general population the probability of PD occurring is 3-4 out of 1,000 and for a fire fighter the risk increases to 30 per 1,000. It is thought that people develop PD either genetically or environmentally or a combination of both factors. I went through genetic testing to determine if my children were at risk. I do not have the genetic markers for PD. Given the genetic test results, I most likely developed PD as a result of environmental exposure, such as, chemicals released from normal room and contents fires as well as exposure to

pesticides and other chemicals. We need to assure our fire fighters have the information they need to understand the risk and reduce exposure.

I have talked at length to my doctor at MUSC and have been evaluated at the Mayo Clinic. They believe, and I know, that I am able to continue fire chief executive duties. I don't take this lightly, my responsibility is to support you. I take this commitment seriously and would do nothing to compromise you or the CFD. I plan to continue working for you as long as I am able. My doctors say that 5-10 years is a reasonable expectation.

I am totally committed to you and the CFD. In fact you are the CFD and many of you have experienced devastating impacts on your family and on yourselves personally. My initial diagnosis of PD felt devastating on my life, but the opportunity it presents can't be overlooked. I am committed to getting the word out about PD and the possible links to fire fighting. Have no doubt that I will continue to lead the CFD on its current path.

Chief Tom Carr

Charleston Fire Department

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FROM CHIEF CARR:

Parkinson's disease (PD) is one of a larger group of neurological conditions called motor system disorders. Historians have found evidence of the disease as far back as 5000 B.C. It was first described as "the shaking palsy" in 1817 by British doctor James Parkinson. Because of Parkinson's early work in identifying symptoms, the disease came to bear his name.

- Approximately, 1 million Americans are living with PD today.

PD results from a progressive loss of a dopamine producing cells in a portion of the brain. This chemical, dopamine, normally transmits signals within the brain to produce smooth movement of muscles. In Parkinson's patients, 80 percent or more of these dopamine-producing cells are damaged, dead, or otherwise degenerated. This change in nerve activity affects a person's ability to control their muscle movements. Symptoms usually show up in one or more of four ways:

- =Tremor, or trembling in hands, arms, legs, jaw, and face
- =Stiff muscles
- =Slow movement
- =Problems with balance or walking

What causes PD?The exact cause is not yet known. Factors that have been implicated in the development of PD include genetic abnormalities, environmental exposures, or some combination of the two. A small amount of people have an early onset form which is typically caused by an inherited gene defect.

How is PD diagnosed?There are no tests to definitively diagnose PD. Physicians use a combination of physical exam, patient history, radiological imaging and patients' response to medication to establish the diagnosis.

How is PD treated? Medications which increase brain levels of the chemical dopamine are the mainstay of PD treatment. Patients also benefit from physical and speech therapy. In select cases, patients may improve their symptoms through surgical procedures.

What is the prognosis for PD? Each patient's prognosis is individual. No one test can predict how rapid or slow the disease will progress. Importantly, with aggressive management and physical therapy, patients with PD will lead active productive lifestyles.

For additional information about Parkinson's logon to the following websites: www.FireFighterswithParkinsons.org, www.Parkinsonsaction.org, www.michaeljfox.org and www.parkinsons.org

Our prayers and hope for Chief Carr and all those that are dealing with PD. Additionally, thanks to him as well for sharing this very personal story and the information to educate Fire Fighters.

Take Care-CHECK OUT THOSE LINKS.

BillyG

The Secret List 4-20-10 / 2242 Hours

AND:

CANADIAN FIRE PILOT LODD-CRASH WHILE TRAINING

The aircraft, operated by Forest Protection Ltd., crashed shortly after taking off from Miramichi Airport just before 1400 hours. Pilot Ron Clowes, died in the Line of Duty. He was a 62-year-old experienced pilot with more than 13,000 hours of flying time and had worked for Forest Protection for 10 years. The plane took off and did a small tour around the area before it seemed to stall and start to go down. The witness said it looked as if the he pointed the plane to ensure it would miss workers at a nearby peat moss plant when it went down. It was conducting a practice flight at the time of the crash.

-NEB. FIREFIGHTERS INJURED-FALL THRU FLOOR AT WORKING FIRE

2 Firefighters were hurt while operating in a house fire northwest of O'Neill, Nebraska today. O'Neill Firefighter Steven Binkerd fell through the floor into the basement, while FF Ben Kurtz suffered burns. Both were taken to an area hospital for treatment. FF Kurtz was soon released and FF Binkerd was held for observation.

-NUMEROUS NIOSH REPORTS RELEASED-RESPONSE TO THE HOUSTON DOUBLE LODD

(See below on this issue of The Secret List for additional information related to the Houston Double LODD)

=STRUCTURAL COLLAPSE:

Fire Lieutenant dies following floor collapse into basement fire and fire fighter dies attempting to rescue the lieutenant - New York <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/reports/face200923.html>

=GAS EXPLOSION:

Eight fire fighters injured in a natural gas explosion at a strip mall - Maryland

<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/reports/face200913.html>

=HOUSE FIRE:

(Houston) Probationary fire fighter and captain die as a result of rapid fire progression in a wind-driven residential structure fire - Texas

<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/reports/face200911.html>

=2-APPARATUS CRASHES:

Fire Lieutenant dies and three fire fighters are injured in ladder truck crash - Massachusetts

<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/reports/face200905.html>

Fire chief and fire fighter killed when a wildland engine plummeted from a fire-damaged wooden bridge into a dry creek bed - Colorado

<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/reports/face200814.html>

=TRAINING EVENT:

Two fire fighters seriously injured during swiftwater rescue training at a low-head dam - Ohio

<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/reports/face200711.html>

=MEDICAL EMERGENCIES:

Fire fighter suffers cardiac death following structural fire suppression

<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/reports/face201002.html>

Lieutenant suffers sudden cardiac death at scene of a brush fire

<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/reports/face201001.html>

Deputy fire chief suffers sudden cardiac arrest about one hour after conducting an inspection

<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/reports/face200831.html>

-HOUSTON DOUBLE LODD FOLLOWUP: (Numerous media reports)

Houston firefighters who placed ventilation holes in the roof of a dwelling fire actually worsened a wind-driven fire last spring that killed 2 Firefighters in the Line of Duty during a "fast attack" response indicating the incident lacked scene coordination, communication and basic knowledge of fire dynamics.

NIOSH listed eight key contributing factors to the April 12, 2009, fire that killed veteran Houston Fire Department Capt. James Harlow, 50, and probationary Firefighter Damion Hobbs, 29, in the Line of Duty. "Less than six minutes after arriving on-scene, the victims became disoriented as high winds pushed the rapidly growing fire through the den and living room areas where interior crews were operating," the report states, noting that seven other firefighters managed to escape. The commander on the scene attempted to contact the two firefighters, but it later was determined Captain Harlow had left his portable radio in the fire engine and PFF Hobbs' radio was set to a different frequency and was turned off.

HFD has lost 7 Firefighters in the Line of Duty inside burning buildings since 2000, all of them members of the first arriving companies on the scene. This fire, caused by a light switch in a bedroom closet, quickly surged into a towering blaze after a back wall of glass windows and doors collapsed, allowing wind gusts up to 26 mph to blow into the home.

Firefighters did not adequately size up the residence before starting operations, the NIOSH

report stated, but investigators noted a full survey of the property was hampered by side walls topped by fencing and a 11-foot embankments at the rear of the property. A thermal imaging camera was brought but not used during the size up, which may have detected fire conditions in the attic. FF's used power saws and pike poles to knock holes in the roof and ceiling next to the front door, although fire conditions had not been reported by the crews inside the structure to the incident commander, the report stated.

"Moments after the roof was vented, the fire conditions changed drastically as the fuel-rich gases ignited," the report stated. "These actions increased air supply to the ventilation-controlled fire burning in the void space between the ceiling and roof. Flames in the attic ignited the fuel-rich smoke on the ground floor. Rapid fire development on the ground floor may have resulted in the failure of windows (at rear of home) providing a flow path for wind-driven fire."

HOUSTON FD'S 10 RULES FOR SURVIVAL:

Firefighters at the scene twice risked their lives and attempted to enter the burning home to rescue the 2 FF's, but falling debris, intense heat and heavy fire conditions drove them back. Once the fire was under control, Captain Harlow was found in the dining room and PFF Hobbs was found in the living room near the front door nearly 40 minutes after their arrival.

Since the Easter Sunday fire, and an earlier collision between 2 responding fire apparatus that killed a bystander and injured several firefighters, the HFD has issued "10 rules for survival," (**BELOW**) and they include mandatory use of seat belts, obeying all traffic signals, issuing a Mayday call when a crew member is missing and frequent use of portable radios to give progress reports from inside and outside the fire. **Survival rules for ANY Fire Department:**

==1-Seat belt - Use of Seat belts is mandatory any time the vehicle is in motion.

==2-Speed - Obey all traffic laws; obey all HFD policies; Do not bust red lights or intersections; Non-emergency response is acceptable.

==3-PPE - Only HFD issued PPE; No extra layers for insulation; weakest part of PPE ensemble is the SCBA face piece.

==4-Size-up - Perform a 360; accurate arrival reports; Use TIC for temperature reading prior to entry, communicate via radio.

==5-Water before you go - Goal to have an uninterrupted water supply before entry.

==6-Low-Low-Low - On entry; inside; on exit.

==7-Ventilation - Goal of first ladder is ventilation; Release heat and smoke to benefit firefighters and survivable victims.

==8-RIT - RIT on every incident; in place ASAP.

==9-Crew Integrity - Not an option; Critical to incident accountability; Call Mayday early.

==10-Communication - Throughout incident; interior and exterior progress reports. Take Care-BE CAREFUL. Good Seeing Everyone At Another OUTSTANDING FDIC.

SEE YOU AT CFSI IN DC THIS WEEK: http://www.cfsi.org/dinner_about.asp

BillyG

The Secret List 4-24-10 / 2008 Hours

AND:

Hey,

Our thanks to Fire Captain Fons de Graauw from Holland for an **OUTSTANDING** video showing the REALITY of what can happen when struts explode at vehicle fires. There is significant recent history of Firefighters being seriously injured by exploding, airborne struts-wait until you see this clip. Full PPE and a flowing hose line with a distant and angled approach is the safest way to operate-or-better yet-isn't it time apparatus simply "hit it" from perhaps a simple, "control in the cab" 500 gpm roof turret? We're just say'n. The video is on our HOME page: www.FireFighterCloseCalls.com or go to the below link:

<http://firefighterclosecalls.com/fullstory.php?106456>

RUNAWAY FIRE APPARATUS IN MARYLAND

An engine company rolled 60 feet and crashed into a tree during a demo Saturday in Pasadena, injuring one Firefighter who attempted to stop the truck. The Lake Shore Volunteer Fire Company (Anne Arundel County) was showing eight children firefighting equipment when the truck's emergency brake released, causing the truck to roll-the children were inside the fire truck at the time but were uninjured. The injured firefighter was taken to Baltimore Washington Medical Center and has NLT injuries. We have some additional info and video on our home page.

NEW YORK RESPONDING EMS CRASH RESULTS IN CIVILIAN FATALITY

A crash between a Fort Drum ambulance and a pickup truck yesterday claimed the life of a woman. The ambulance was attempting to meet with another ambulance for an ALS intercept when it crashed with a pickup truck. The driver of the truck was airlifted to a hospital with NLT injuries but an elderly woman, who was a passenger in the truck died from her injuries, deputies said. The EMS crew suffered minor injuries, deputies said. There are no other facts yet on exactly what happened.

FIREFIGHTER MAYDAY-QUICK RESCUE IN CINCINNATI

Cincinnati FD companies responded to what turned out to be a working fire in a vacant two-story duplex this morning. During operations, a Firefighter fell through the floor and was injured-but was quickly found and rescued by Firefighters. The injured firefighter was removed and transported to the hospital for NLT injuries.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 4-25-10 / 1703 Hours

AND:

Hey,

It's Baskin Robbins' 31-cent scoops night tonight until 10 p.m. at your nearby ice cream shop. The Baskin-Robbins Community Foundation will give \$100,000 to the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation. So load up and head for Baskin Robbins

TONIGHT: <http://www.baskinrobbins.com/Spotlight/franchisee.aspx>

PROVING THE NEED FOR FIREFIGHTER STAFFING:

A new study issued today here at CFSI in DC by NIST shows that the size of firefighting crews has a substantial effect on our ability to protect lives and property in residential fires.

DUH.

Well, now wait a minute. it's "DUH" to us-WE knew that the size of a crew has a substantial impact on the incident success-but IT IS NOT clearly understood and known to those who decide the staffing we operate with. And if this report is used properly and correctly-it CAN help those who don't get it-to GET IT, on the Firefighter staffing issue. **NOTE:** The key to the success of this document will be how WE use it to educate those who determine our responses, staffing and ultimately, our funding. That is the key. (See below for more)

The study found that four FF firefighting crews were able to complete 22 essential firefighting and rescue tasks in a typical residential structure 30% faster than two-person crews and 25 percent faster than three-person crews. **Pure emotionless numbers-and THAT'S what is needed to get the emotionless city-hall dwellers to "get it". They want numbers? WE GOT NUMBERS. No emotion. FACTUAL, MEASURABLE, PROVABLE NUMBERS.**

The report is the first modern report to quantify the effects of FF crew sizes and arrival times on the fire service's job of rescue and firefighting operations for residential fires.

SIMPLY PUT:

The four-person crews were able to deliver water to a similar-sized fire 15 percent faster than the two-person crews and 6 percent faster than three-person crews, steps that help to reduce property damage and lower danger to the Firefighters. "Our experiments directly address 2 primary objectives of firefighters: extinguishing the fire and rescuing occupants," said Lori Moore-Merrell of the IAFF, a principal investigator on the study and long time Secret List member.

The four-person crews were able to complete search and rescue 30 percent faster than two-person crews and 5 percent faster than three-person crews, Moore-Merrell explained. Five-person crews were faster than four-person crews in several key tasks. The benefits of five-person crews have also been documented by other researchers for fires in medium- and high-hazard structures, such as high-rise buildings, commercial properties, factories and warehouses.

NIST researchers and their fire service partners conducted more than 60 controlled fire experiments to determine the relative effects of crew size, the arrival time of the first fire crews, and the "stagger," or spacing, between the arrivals of successive waves of fire-fighting apparatus (vehicles and equipment). The stagger time simulates the typically later arrival of crews from more distant stations as compared to crews from more nearby stations.

Crews of two, three, four and five firefighters were timed as they performed 22 standard firefighting and rescue tasks to extinguish a live fire in the test facility. Those standard tasks included occupant search and rescue, time to put water on fire, and laddering and ventilation. Apparatus arrival time, the stagger between apparatus, and crew sizes were varied.

The fire modeling simulations demonstrated that two-person, late-arriving crews can face a fire that is twice the intensity of the fire faced by five-person, early arriving crews. Additionally, the modeling demonstrated that trapped occupants receive less exposure to toxic combustion products-such as carbon monoxide and carbon dioxide-if the firefighters arrive earlier and

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involve three or more persons per crew. "The results of the field experiments apply only to fires in low-hazard residential structures as described in the NFPA Standard 1710, but it provides a strong starting point," said Moore-Merrell. Future research could extend the findings of the report to quantify the effects of crew size and apparatus arrival times in medium- and high-hazard structures, she said. The next step for them is to develop a training package for Firefighters and public officials that would enable them to have both quantitative and qualitative understanding of the research, a project also funded by FEMA's Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program. THATS THE KEY.

The Report on Residential Fireground Field Experiments can be downloaded here.

http://www.nist.gov/bfrl/fire_research/upload/Report-on-Residential-Fireground-Field-Experiments.pdf

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 4-28-10 /1720 Hours

AND:

Hey,

Four Wilmington (DE) Firefighters were injured this afternoon when their fire apparatus was hit by civilian driver. The crash occurred about 12:45 hours when the Audi, driven by 35-year-old Christopher Swyka of Elkton, Md., was driving when he failed to stop for a red light and slammed into the fire truck headed east on a green light. The 4 Firefighters were taken to Wilmington Hospital with NLT injuries. Swyka was also treated at the hospital for minor injuries. Swyka, who was driving a loaner and claimed that his brakes failed, was cited for careless driving. Another clueless civilian driver reminding us that no matter what the conditions or response-we have to expect the unexpected.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 4-29-10 / 2157 Hours

AND:

Hey,

Milford (DE) Police locked up a 33-year old man after shots were fired from a rifle at Firefighters. The Carlisle Fire Department had responded to an alarm when alert Firefighters saw someone firing several times at their apparatus. The shooter, Jason Leibly faces numerous charges including his third DUI offense. Fortunately, no firefighters were injured nor was there any equipment damaged. On Wednesday, at approximately at around 1730 hours, Milford Police were called to Brightway Commons where there was a report that a subject was firing a rifle at firefighters. The Carlisle Fire Department had responded to an alarm at the complex when members observed an individual fire several times at their vehicle. The suspect fled prior to officers arriving but was stopped a short distance from where the incident occurred. Police Arrested 33 year old Jason E. Leibly of Ellendale when he was stopped and found in possession of a .177 caliber pneumatic rifle, and ammunition. Leibly was charged with 7 counts of First Degree Reckless Endangering, 7 counts of Aggravated Menacing, Possession of a firearm during the commission of a felony, Third Offense DUI Alcohol, Carrying a Concealed Deadly Weapon, Unlawful Discharge of a Rifle, Disorderly Conduct, and traffic offenses. Leibly was arraigned at JP Court 2 and committed in

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default of Secured Bond. According to the Carlisle Fire Chief, there were no firefighters injured nor was any equipment damaged during the incident. These details are from the local media release.

Take Care-Be Aware.

BillyG

The Secret List 4-30-10 / 0920 hours

AND:

51 YEAR OLD PA FIREFIGHTER DIES IN THE LINE OF DUTY-AT TRAINING-MEDICAL EMERGENCY

It is with deep regret that we advise you that a Firefighter, age 51, from the Scalp Level & Paint Volunteer Fire Department (Somerset County, PA) suffered a heart attack while training in interior firefighting. The Firefighter was training at the Cambria County Fire School when he went down. He was immediately treated and then transported to the Miners Hospital in Cambria County where he passed away. As always, our sincere condolences to all affected.

INCREDIBLE!

NOT JUST ANOTHER PPE & HazMat REMINDER:

This story and photo has several items you'll find of interest.

While a Firefighter (without bunker gear but using an SCBA) sprayed a stream of water onto a tank containing anhydrous ammonia, police fired into the tank with an AR-15 police rifle. Seriously. Check out the link and picture:

<http://www.firefighterclosecalls.com/news/fullstory/newsid/106800>

Thanks to Bill S at www.FireGeezer.com for the heads up on this classic WTF item.

ANOTHER FIREFIGHTER DIES FROM CANCER:

While we cannot accurately list all of the Firefighters who die from cancer annually, we do list some from time to time-most often Firefighters we have worked with. It is with much regret and sadness that we advise you that retired Cedar Hammock FD Lt. Garland Goodman (Manatee County, FL) passed away this morning after a courageous battle with cancer. A strong, low key leader with the warm smile and easy going attitude even during the toughest emergencies, Garland was an awesome friend, mentor, family man and brother Firefighter to so many. He is suffering no more and he will be sorely missed by all who knew him. RIP.

RUMOR CONTROL:

We had several FF's send us information about this a few weeks ago (April 19). The details as we know it are related to a recent Houston FD incident where a Fire Captain got into a tussle with a Firefighter resulting in the FF going to the hospital. Firefighters said it happened after some firehouse horseplay might have gotten out of control. Both Firefighters are back at work awaiting the outcome of an investigation. This was apparently not a response or training related injury as some had reported.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 5-1-10 / 1950 Hours

AND:

Hey,

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Two Highland Park Firefighters were injured today, one getting critical burns while operating a fire at a multi-family dwelling. It should be noted that the media is reporting that 7 Firefighters may have made up the 1st alarm, but we haven't confirmed that as of yet.

The HP Firefighters went out at 0812 hours today (Saturday) and after arriving at the scene, Firefighter Jerome Brown was critically burned on his hands and face as he stretched a line. Initial/early reports are that he was wearing gloves and other unspecified protective gear. It is further reported that when he opened the nozzle, it caused very serious burn injuries to his head, according to an Officer of the HPFD. FF Brown was taken to Detroit Receiving Hospital where he was placed in intensive care in the burn unit.

Additionally, Firefighters were an hour into the fire when an evacuation order was given to leave the house when Firefighter Christopher Pikkanen, who was on the second floor was forced to jump because there were no stairs. FF Pikkanen broke two bones in his left foot and was treated in the emergency room at Detroit Receiving as well. Updates to follow.

UPDATE: PA FIREFIGHTER LODD UPDATE:

The PA Firefighter who died yesterday in the Line of Duty is John Palomino of the Scalp Level & Paint Volunteer Fire Company. FF Palomino joined the fire department in the fall after moving into the area. He was taking the 166 hours basic essentials class which is a requirement for any new member who wants to fight fires in that fire company. Again, our sincere condolences.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 5-1-10 / 2246 Hours

AND

Hey,

A Ramsey (NJ) rescue squad truck struck one of its members as it backed up on the scene of a gas leak run this morning. The truck responded to the gas leak and was backing up when it struck their member around 0715 hours knocking her underneath. She was taken to Hackensack University Medical Center with what appeared to be non-life-threatening but serious injuries-she was reported to be conscious and alert. The unit responded to a gas leak at 0600 hours and was moving to a different area near the leak when the accident occurred. The truck's cab was turning when it backed up and struck the member. We'll post more on our home page as it becomes available.

FIREFIGHTER CANCER:

Take a look at our home page news for details on a Presidential Panel looking at the issues of cancer related to civilians-and how it clearly affects us as well:

www.FireFighterCloseCalls.com

Take Care-BE CAREFUL,

BillyG

The Secret List 5-6-10 / 0957 hours

AND

Hey,

A California Firefighter was struck by a pickup truck in Santa Fe Springs this morning while soliciting funds for the Muscular Dystrophy "Fill-the-Boot" campaign. The incident, which happened around 0945 hours took place at an intersection. The Firefighter, 53, was airlifted to UC Irvine Medical Center with head injuries, however he was conscious and breathing. The pickup truck driver was not cited. We'll update any changes on our home page. A reminder to use **EXTREME** caution, be very visible (vests) and work in coordination with traffic control, the local cops etc when operating on the roadways for any kind of fire services fund raising.

SCBA SURVEY REMINDER:

If you haven't already done so, this is a reminder that the NFPA Technical Committee on Respiratory Protection Equipment has developed the below survey to better understand the use of Emergency Breathing Safety Systems (more commonly referred to as the "buddy-breathing system") on Self-Contained-Breathing Apparatus. The results of this survey will be used in an attempt to upgrade the current regulatory standards regarding Emergency Breathing Safety Systems. All identities will be kept in strict confidence and will not be released in any way. In an effort to ensure a complete and timely response, it is requested you return this survey no later than May 14, 2010. All responses will be confidential

FireFighterCloseCalls.com / The Secret List will post a synopsis of the answers when the details are made available from the EBSS Task Group-NFPA Technical Committee on Respiratory Protection Equipment Please click on the link below to fill out a short survey about Emergency Breathing Safety Systems for Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus:

<https://spreadsheets.google.com/viewform?formkey=dGtoSEJhNjJTbVlpUy14WTY0TXZJcEE6MA>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL. **DO NOT FORGET Mothers Day, This Sunday.**

BillyG

The Secret List 5-6-10 / 1847 Hours

AND

Hey,

This morning at least 2 Middletown (Ohio) Firefighters were injured during an attempted technical rescue. At least 1 Firefighter is reported critical and was transported by helicopter. The civilian victim is deceased. Initial, unconfirmed reports are that they responded to a city worker in some type of hole requiring rescue. We will update soon.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 5-7-10 / 0955 hours

AND:

Hey,

It appears that yet unknown fumes from a sanitary sewer killed a Middletown Public Works employee this morning and injured 2 Firefighters trying to rescue him around 0800 hours this morning. It is still not clear what the substance inside the hole is.

The victims are:

=Fire Captain Todd Wissemeier - INJURED - was transported to Miami Valley Hospital in Dayton. He was reportedly unconscious at the scene and is reported to be serious.

=Fire Marshal Bob Yess - INJURED - is listed in fair condition at Atrium Medical Center in Middletown. He was conscious at the scene.

=Firefighter Thomas Allen, 46, INJURED with NLT injuries.

=Mr. Jabin Lakes, 32 - employed by Public Works for a year. He was pronounced dead at the scene.

Four top city officials as well as some others at the scene were also sent for screening. The City Manager, The Mayor, their Law Director and an MPD Supervisor were all tested at hospitals today following the incident. A helicopter carrying specialized testing equipment has been brought in and crews are seeking to determine exactly what substances are in manhole. Mr. Lakes and other public works folks were going to inspect a sanitary sewer line in that area because a local business wanted to tie-in some additional lines. They were going to inspect the line, run a camera through it and clean it in preparation for that work. There was no intention to go inside the sewer system by the public works employees according to reports. However, once the manhole was open, fumes escaped right into Lakes' direction and he fell into the hole.

2 of his co-workers immediately called 911 and Middletown Firefighters responded. Captain Wissemeier and FM Yess were standing outside the hole when they went down. It was also noted that the sewer line is a dead-end at both ends. The Butler County Search & Rescue Team was called to assist Middletown and will remove Lakes' body as soon as it is safe. Air monitors were lowered into the hole to check the air quality before that work could be performed. More to follow later.

INTOXICATED FIREFIGHTERS

An upstate NY Volunteer Firefighter is accused of drunken driving while responding to a fire in the Town of Guilderland overnight. The Captain from the Stanford Heights VFC was arrested and charged with DWI after striking a Guilderland police officer with his car. 42-year-old Fire Captain Thomas Fortune, had a blood alcohol content of 0.15, almost twice the legal limit for operating a vehicle. The charges are that he hit Officer Don Jones with his car while Jones was directing traffic (Jones was treated for an arm injury) and Captain Fortune was attempting to respond to the fire call.

And in Iowa, another incident involves another Firefighter (The Carlisle Fire Chief) who was intoxicated. Dave Statter has more on both of these events right **HERE**:

<http://tinyurl.com/2dv7jbt>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 5-7-10 / 1446 Hours

AND:

Hey,

An ambulance transporting a patient in Minnesota reportedly struck another vehicle on an icy highway about 1930 hours last night, lost control and rolled over a guard rail as it approached a bridge spanning the St. Louis River near Brookston. A 76-year-old patient in the ambulance was killed and the EMS personnel were injured and transported, with NLT injuries. The driver of the other vehicle was not injured.

OHIO TECH RESCUE FIREFIGHTER CLOSE CALL UPDATE:

The 2 Middletown Firefighters who were overcome by unidentified fumes while trying to rescue that city worker (who subsequently died) remain hospitalized today. **The Firefighters were not wearing SCBA because they initially thought they were responding to a fall, according to a city statement.**

Todd Wissemeier, a 44-year-old fire captain and 20-year veteran, is in serious condition today at Miami Valley Hospital in Dayton, where he was transported by medical helicopter from the scene. On Friday, he was listed in critical condition in the hospital's intensive care unit. Bob Hess, a 47-year-old fire marshal, remains in fair condition at Atrium Medical Center. FF Thomas Allen was treated and released from Atrium yesterday. What the fumes are and where they came from are still unknown, but based on chemical tests conducted at the scene, the fumes may be nitrogen, which is colorless and odorless. Firefighters later ran sensors into the manhole, following the incident and found oxygen levels of less than 2 percent. The most potent concentrations were detected two feet below the surface.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL,

BillyG

The Secret List 5-8-10 / 1632 Hours

AND:

Hey,

A Texas Volunteer Firefighter was seriously injured Monday when he was ejected from a responding fire apparatus. The incident occurred at 1605 hours in the town of Tarkington Prairie. The Cypress Lakes VFD tanker was responding to a working barn fire (mutual aid to Tarkington Prairie) when it crashed and rolled. A Firefighter, age 30, was airlifted to Memorial Hermann Hospital with serious head and leg injuries. We'll post updates on our home page.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 5-10-10 / 2241 Hours

AND:

Hey,

Last night in Alberta, Canada, a house blew up during a live fire detail that sent several Firefighters to the hospital in what was an extreme close call. Wainwright Fire Chief Steve Douglas says they had a debris field that went in one direction well over 1000 feet from the house. At around 2000 hours last night, members of the Edgerton Fire Rescue Services lit an abandoned house on fire for a controlled burn. The rural house had been used numerous times by them for training. This time, however, the property owner asked that the FD to burn the house to the ground to get rid of it, so the department let the blaze go. Around 15 minutes

after the house went up in flames, there was a huge explosion. An EMS helicopter took one 21-year-old Firefighter to the University of Alberta Hospital and the firefighter was in stable condition for the whole flight. The Firefighter was going in for surgery this morning. 5 other injured Firefighters were taken by ground ambulance, while several others drove themselves to the hospital to be checked out. The cause of the blast is a mystery. We'll post updates.

**AND IN OTHER CANADIAN FIRE SERVICE NEWS:
FIRE APPARATUS STOLEN.**

Volunteer firefighters in the little British Columbia community of East Gate are dealing with the fact that one of their 2 fire apparatus was stolen over the weekend. The truck was stolen either Saturday night or early Sunday morning. The truck, a white 1997 Ford F-350 flat bed with a 500-gallon plastic water tank and aluminum bins full of equipment, was used as a "rapid attack" truck. The truck was paid for through community fundraising, volunteer donations and grants from the BC Lottery Corporation, and all of the custom work was done by volunteers. If found, please return, eh.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 5-11-10 / 1620 Hours

AND:

Hey,

A woman involved in an intersection crash with a Beech Grove (IN) responding fire apparatus last week has died. The woman was pronounced today, more than a week after the May 3 crash at an intersection in the Indianapolis suburb. The fire apparatus, with its lights and sirens activated, was responding to a call of a reported building collapse when it was involved in the crash. The impact pushed both vehicles off the road and into an nearby parking lot. 2 Firefighters suffered minor injuries in the crash.

RUSSIAN FIREFIGHTER KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY:

An explosion today at a hydropower plant in central Russia killed two people, including a Firefighter, and injured 10 workers. The blast occurred at a hydropower plant 600 miles east of Moscow. A compressor exploded in the turbine room, but the cause of the accident was not immediately clear. Smoke had appeared in the turbine room about 10 minutes before the explosion. The turbine shop director was killed, as was a Firefighter who fell from a height during the rescue operation. As always, our sincere condolences.

UPDATES: OHIO FIREFIGHTERS TECH RESCUE & CANADIAN HOUSE EXPLOSION:

Officials spent today taking air samples, trying to determine what was in an underground sanitary sewer line that led to the death of a Middletown city worker and critically injured Firefighters last week. The test results on atmosphere samples from the sewer gas that may have led to Jabin Lakes' death last Friday may be ready Thursday or Friday but there's nothing new yet but they hope to have results tomorrow or Friday. Despite Lakes falling 20 to 30 feet into a sewer hole, the Butler County coroner's report indicates that Lakes may have died from a lack of oxygen rather than from trauma. It's that gas that replaced the oxygen in the manhole - and its source - that now is the focus for investigators. As you know, 3 Firefighters trying to rescue Lakes from the hole also were overcome. One of them, Middletown Fire Captain Todd Wissemeier, was admitted to Miami Valley Hospital in Dayton

in critical condition but has been upgraded to serious condition and has recovered enough Wednesday to have a phone conversation with city fire officials, which is great news.

AND IN CANADA. The 21-year-old volunteer firefighter who was injured in that house explosion is reported in good spirits and remains at the University of Alberta Hospital Trauma Unit. Part of a wall hit and broke his legs, he lost his helmet, he knocked his head on the ground, he broke the arm in the process and some debris opened up his shoulder. It's not still not known what went wrong during Monday's controlled burn but explosives experts from the RCMP (Royal Canadian Mounted Police) are now assisting in the investigation.

THE "SCIENCE" OF FIREFIGHTER SAFETY:

Check out this interesting piece from Fire Engineering. Perhaps some of you remember the initial presentation in Atlanta and the subsequent lively discussions:

<http://tinyurl.com/2v7yk3g>

NFFF GOLF FUNDRAISERS REMINDER:

In 2004, the first National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Golf Tournament was held to raise awareness and to help sustain the programs of the NFFF. Now in its seventh year, the NFFF Golf Tournaments have grown to include 50 regional golf tournaments held across the country. In 2009, 32 tournaments raised \$236,000 in support of the NFFF programs. Click [HERE](http://golf.firehero.org/) for details on the one near you: <http://golf.firehero.org/>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 5-12-10 / 2026 Hours

AND:

Hey,

In what appears to be at least one LODD, 2 people died in an Iowa crash involving a Carroll County EMS ambulance and a semi around noon today. The semi was in the left lane attempting to make a left hand turn onto a county highway in Boone County (near the Town of Beaver) when the driver saw flashing lights and attempted to pull back into the right lane, at the same time the ambulance also attempted to move into that lane to get around the semi and the two vehicles hit head on. Unfortunately the front end of the ambulance was caved in. Additional reports indicate that when responding fire-rescue crews arrived on the scene, they said a woman told them her co-worker in the back of the ambulance was DOA. That woman, a Carroll County EMS crew member with significant injuries, apparently fought to save her patient and the ambulance driver. We will have more details soon on our home page.

Take Care -BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 5-13-10 / 1557 Hours

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

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

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

Budget Related Items:

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

Milpitas (CA) officials say they might save millions of dollars in coming years by handing over operation of the city's emergency dispatch center to City of San Jose or Santa Clara County. The city faces a \$10.6 million budget deficit in the fiscal year that starts July 1, and an anticipated shortfall of \$11.12 million the following fiscal year, prompting the exploration: http://www.mercurynews.com/ci_14930707?nclick_check=1

Riverside County (CA) officials will make their case to Cal Fire's top brass next week on why they need relief on more than \$12 million in administrative fees. The county is facing a \$131.5 million budget gap for the fiscal year starting July 1 and is directing the fire department to make \$2.1 million in cuts, a move that could result in the closing of as many as five fire stations. At the same time, Cal Fire, which the county hires to provide fire protection, has proposed increasing the administrative fee it charges the county. The fee could jump next year to \$14 million:
http://www.pe.com/localnews/politics/stories/PE_News_Local_W_fire21.4713f30.html

Facing a budget deficit approaching \$5 million from double-digit revenue declines, the Sparks City Council voted 3-2 Monday to lay off at least 41 city employees. Among the layoffs are 11 firefighters, described as the first in Sparks history. No police officers will be laid off. A plan last week had called for laying off up to 12 police officers, with six being rehired with federal money. But the Sparks police union agreed to 5.4 percent salary and benefit reductions, which together with the federal funds, saved the jobs:
<http://www.rgj.com/article/20100427/NEWS/4270345/1321/news/Sparks-council-OKs-layoffs-that-include-firefighters>

Possibly more than twice as many Las Vegas (NV) city employees — about 280 or more — could lose their jobs under a revised budget that will be drafted for the 2011 fiscal year, Mayor Oscar Goodman said today. At his regular weekly press conference this morning, Goodman was asked how many more employees might lose their jobs than the 141 anticipated under the tentative budget the city council approved in March. "I don't know. A lot. Maybe double. Maybe more than double." Firefighters, who were spared from the original cuts of 141 jobs, will now also be subject to layoffs as the budget is revised, the mayor said. "Everybody, across the board," Goodman said:
<http://www.lasvegassun.com/news/2010/apr/22/mayor-city-job-losses-could-double-earlier-estimat/>

California Republican candidate for governor Meg Whitman on Thursday proposed a major restructuring of state worker pensions that she said would dramatically lessen the billions of dollars that cash-strapped California would be required to pay out in future years. The Republican advocates raising the retirement age from 50 to 55 for public safety employees and from 55 to 65 for non-safety state workers. She takes a jab at Jerry Brown for the pension crisis: <http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-0423-whitman-pension-20100423%2C0%2C6933039.story>

Gilbert's (AZ) fire and police departments are charging toward a crossroads. One direction could force the termination of 67 Gilbert police and 29 fire personnel to close an \$8 million public safety budget gap:
<http://www.azcentral.com/community/gilbert/articles/2010/04/23/20100423gilbert-public-safety-0424.html>

With budget and staffing cuts at Town Hall, Buckeye (AZ) firefighters are now maintaining and operating the Louis B. Hazelton Memorial Cemetery. Firefighters irrigate, clean, dig gravesites, maintain headstones and put up chairs for burial services as part of new cemetery duties, Fire Chief Bob Costello said:
<http://www.azcentral.com/community/swvalley/articles/2010/04/23/20100423-buckeye-firefighters-cemetery.html>

Kern County (CA) supervisors will consider laying off a dozen recently hired firefighters during a budget update Tuesday morning:
<http://www.bakersfield.com/news/local/x735124062/Firefighter-layoffs-being-considered-by-county>

After months of delays, the Los Angeles (CA) City Council voted Friday to approve a one-year contract with the union that represents roughly 3,500 firefighters, providing no pay raises for the fiscal year that ends June 30. The agreement with United Firefighters of Los Angeles City Local 112 is designed to save \$11.6 million this year and \$2.3 million in the fiscal year that starts July 1, city officials said:
<http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/lanow/2010/04/la-council-approves-firefighter-contractwith-no-raises.html>

Tucson (AZ) firefighters may get 108 hours of furlough time to help balance the city budget: <http://www.kold.com/Global/story.asp?S=12419962>

The elimination of \$1 million in overtime pay has forced the Gilbert (AZ) Fire Department to shut down its newest fire engine:

<http://www.azcentral.com/news/articles/2010/04/27/20100427gilbert-fire-engine-idled-0428.html>

Seated in his new, cramped office at the fire station, Hellsgate (AZ) Fire Chief Gary Hatch said the fire department is in a no-win situation. Due to budget concerns, the department just laid off its battalion chief, Doug Blazer, sold off a fire truck, downsized office space and could lose its contract with Payson Fire indefinitely:

<http://www.paysonroundup.com/news/2010/apr/27/hellsgate-fire-braces-serious-cuts/>

Bremerton (WA) city employees are being asked to take pay cuts to help fill an estimated \$2.3 million hole in the city's 2010 budget:

<http://www.kitsapsun.com/news/2010/apr/27/bremerton-city-employees-asked-to-take-pay-cuts/>

Clark County (NV) and the City of Las Vegas could save millions of dollars with a plan to consolidate some public services. But, the idea of merging fire departments is not sitting well with everyone, including some unions. Both the City of Las Vegas and Clark County are facing budget deficits and are looking for ways to save money. "The economic situation that is facing our citizens is devastating," Clark County Commissioner Steve Sisolak said. "We are in an unprecedented time economically." "We are definitely talking about how we can make the taxpayers' dollars go further," Las Vegas Mayor Oscar Goodman adds. One option they are considering would be to combine some firefighter services:

<http://www.8newsnow.com/Global/story.asp?S=12393868>

Selma (CA) is laying off 20 percent of its police and firefighters because of budget problems. The city needed to cut \$1.3 million and city officials said layoffs were the only answer. Six Selma police officers and four firefighters received two-week layoff notices April 27. The city had a meeting with all of its bargaining units Monday and decided to lay off personnel from those departments, as well as one public works employee. All the other police and fire personnel will be furloughed as well, said city manager D-B Heusser. The fire and police bargaining units offered a 10 percent furlough, which was accepted by the city. Those furloughs only closed about \$550,000 of the \$1.3 million budget gap. With \$750,000 needed to close the gap, layoffs were the only option, Heusser said:

<http://www.selmaenterprise.com/articles/2010/04/28/news/doc4bd8a4707708a042081138.txt>

Roy (UT) Mayor Joe Ritchie stands by the city's budget decisions, including letting a part-time employee go and not hiring 10 to 15 seasonal employees. Members of the Roy Firefighter Union Local 3854 have questioned some budget moves and are awaiting a report from the city's finance director about decisions regarding hiring, car allowances for some employees and lack of raises. The fire department lost a part-time clerk and city employees have not had raises for three years:

<http://www.standard.net/topics/politics/2010/05/02/mayor-stands-budget-decisions>

Brad Iverson is set to join the swollen ranks of Nevada's unemployed, as one of 16 North Las Vegas (NV) firefighters who received layoff notices in recent weeks. "It's devastating. I love what I do," the 39-year-old said Wednesday while visiting the downtown office of Mark Fierro, a longtime public relations professional recently retained by local firefighters unions:

<http://www.lvrj.com/news/firefighter-layoffs-looming-92652259.html>

One of three Montebello (CA) fire stations could be periodically taken out of service now that city officials are limiting overtime for fire personnel in the midst of a budget crisis. With reserves tapped out, the city is facing a \$4 million budget shortfall. So far this fiscal year - from July 1 to the end of March - police and fire personnel have earned more than \$2 million in overtime, according to city documents:

http://www.whittierdailynews.com/news/ci_14998223

Las Vegas' (NV) projected budget deficit is larger than expected, bringing up the prospect of more layoffs and service cuts as the city continues to reel from the economic downturn. City leaders now expect an \$80 million shortfall in the 2011 fiscal year, which starts July 1. That's a \$10 million increase over what officials have been planning to endure, and there's still an expected \$55 million shortfall waiting in 2012:

<http://www.lvrj.com/news/larger-than-expected-city-budget-deficit-raises-prospect-of-more-layoffs--service-cuts-92730509.html>

More budget headaches are ahead for the City of Redding. They need to slash more than \$2 million from the 2010 budget. A lot of City departments could be affected, and several jobs are on the chopping block. One of the biggest issues has to do with the city workers retirement fund. In addition to retirement funds, departments across the city are feeling the heat, including the Redding Fire Department. The Fire Department is being asked to start paying their 9% retirement contribution. That is on top of a 12.5% pay cut that the firefighters union agreed to back in 2009. Both cuts combined would make for a 20% hit to their salary. The union says their biggest issue with the retirement contribution is that the city did not ask for it; they demanded it. The Fire Department is not alone; Redding Police are looking at a \$600,000 hit as well:

<http://krctrv.com/node/6756>

Fire chiefs cannot play the usual "budget games" with mayors in the current economic climate, Fire Rescue Med was told Tuesday. Chief Rob Brown told the audience at the conference the worst thing chiefs could do is deliver ultimatums to their managers over financial issues. "This is not a normal economic downturn where we can play the normal budget games and expect to come out alive," he said. Threatening to quit if cuts are made leaves department members "high and dry" and mayors are prepared to call the bluff by chiefs, Chief Brown said: <http://www.firerescue1.com/fire-department-management/articles/816027-Chiefs-cant-play-budget-games-with-mayors-conference-told/>

The Sun City (AZ) Fire District board will present a budget next week that is lower than the current spending plan and prepares for a potential revenue reduction that could cost the district up to \$140,000 "The budget is a 3 percent decrease from last year," Fire Chief Jim Haner said at Tuesday's fire board workshop. "We're doing a good job."

<http://www.yourwestvalley.com/news/district-15898-reduction-city.html>

It's been a tough fight but now, the City of Las Vegas (NV) is close to making a deal with the Firefighters' Union. News 3 Political Analyst Jon Ralston has learned that the firefighters have offered up a two-year concession. It includes the surrender of some benefits, including a clothing allowance. It also creates a lower tier for new hires, which means they would start at a lower salary:

<http://www.mynews3.com/story.php?id=16447&n=5035>

Reno (NV) Councilman Dave Aiazzi wants city voters to weigh in on whether Reno fire department crews should be reduced from four- to three-person crews to keep more fire stations open: <http://www.rgj.com/article/20100506/NEWS/100506028>

Facing a third year of declining revenue, the East Contra Costa (CA) Fire District is considering cuts that would force it to close at least one station. "We don't have a choice," board President Erick Stonebarger said, adding that whether the agency shuts multiple stations depends on how much money it slashes from next year's budget and how it decides to allocate what's left:

http://www.conracoostatimes.com/brentwood/ci_15033914

Bargaining between Clark County (NV) and its firefighters union is dragging on as the city of Las Vegas and the Clark County School District approach cost-cutting deals with their unions. The firefighters have drawn attention because they have yet to offer what most commissioners think are reasonable concessions in pay and benefits to help the county deal with a \$57 million budget shortfall. Also, Fire Department managers and firefighters are among the best-paid county employees. Thirty-eight of the county's top 50 earners in 2009 were firefighters, many of them making more than \$200,000 a year: <http://www.lvrj.com/news/county--firefighters-union-continue-struggle-over-cost-cutting-deal-93172479.html>

Vancouver (WA) Fire Department medics may stop responding to non-emergency calls such as a broken arm or leg. Chief Don Bivins told the city council Monday the cutbacks would free up firefighters to respond more quickly to emergencies such as heart attacks:

http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/localnews/2011835226_apwavancouvernonemergencies.html

The tentative deal between the city of Las Vegas (NV) and its firefighters union might hurt efforts by Clark County to impose deep cuts to its firefighters' contract:

<http://www.lasvegassun.com/news/2010/may/12/local-government-countys-pull-firefighter-talks-ma/>

It's a big reversal in the ongoing contract negotiations between the City of Las Vegas (NV) and the Firefighters Union. Although it seemed as if the two parties may be close to making a deal, the city has in fact rejected the firefighters' latest offer:

<http://www.mynews3.com/story.php?id=16869&n=5035>

City of Las Vegas (NV) leaders and the Las Vegas fire fighters union are once again at an impasse regarding a new labor agreement. City leaders rejected a tentative

agreement with the union, sending both sides back to the negotiating table. The city faces an \$80 million budget deficit. If the city can't fill it, layoffs may be the only option. "We are going to have a balanced budget, but I'd like to have a balanced budget where we don't have to lay people off," Las Vegas Mayor Oscar Goodman said. The city's tentative deal with the International Association of Fire Fighters Local 1285 fell through this week, when the city rejected the agreement. City leaders want every city employee to take an 8% pay cut and relinquish some benefits. Mayor Goodman says the fire fighters union deal fell short. "My staff tells me that what fire was offering was basically flat plus 3%," he said: <http://www.8newsnow.com/Global/story.asp?S=12480708>

Not-So-Positive Public Relations Items:

The president of Palo Alto's (CA) firefighters' union publicly accused the City Council Monday night of hampering democracy by encouraging city residents not to sign a ballot petition circulated by the union. Tony Spitaleri, a retired fire captain and president of Palo Alto Professional Firefighters, Local 1319, said the council is setting a bad precedent by formally recommending that residents not sign a ballot measure that would require the city to hold an election any time it wants to change staffing levels at the Fire Department:

http://www.paloaltoonline.com/news/show_story.php?id=16535

Editorial: The Boston (MA) City Council must put an end to indefensible firefighter raises:

http://www.boston.com/bostonglobe/editorial_opinion/editorials/articles/2010/04/21/city_council_must_put_an_end_to_indefensible_firefighter_raise/

The victim of a brutal assault allegedly committed by a Philadelphia (PA) firefighter and his son in the Northeast earlier this month has died of his injuries, and now the pair is facing additional charges that may include murder:

<http://www.kyw1060.com/Firefighter--Son-Charged-in-Deadly-Assault/6851228>

A female firefighter in the United Kingdom slept with her 'sexist' boss in a desperate bid to end harassment by colleagues, a tribunal heard. Kate Ellis, 40, said she decided to 'become a notch on the bedpost' of Mark Butler, 43, to stop a bullying campaign against her as the only woman at the fire station. She said being a firefighter was her dream but she was left 'in a hell of a state' after she became the butt of a barrage of jokes, leering and innuendo over five years. Colleagues placed bets on who would have sex with her first and some ogled her while she changed:

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-1268075/Woman-firefighter-slept-boss-stop-sexually-harassing-her.html>

Rochester (NY) Firefighters might be selling their overtime opportunities to more senior members, Mayor Robert Duffy says, taking "kickbacks" while allowing those nearing retirement to inflate their pensions:

<http://www.democratandchronicle.com/article/20100423/NEWS01/4230343/1002/NEWS>

A Punta Gorda (FL) firefighter was arrested Tuesday in connection to last week's home invasion robbery of a prominent DeSoto County family. Investigators say Ernest Joshua Bowen, a four-year veteran of the fire department, and Arcadia resident Bodustin Blue Price stole more than \$100,000 in jewelry and money from the elderly couple: <http://www.heraldtribune.com/article/20100422/ARTICLE/4221067/2058/NEWS>

Layoffs threaten other (non-fire) city workers as firefighters await \$74 million dollars in raises - A tense Boston (MA) City Hall showdown is looming over the sweetheart firefighter pay hike that could net jakes retro checks in excess of \$20,000 - even as pink slips are ready to fly at schools, libraries and other departments: http://www.bostonherald.com/news/regional/view/20100427layoffs_threaten_city_workers_as_firefighters_await_74m_in_raises/

Three firefighters and a friend were each sentenced Tuesday in New London (CT) Superior Court to a one-year suspended sentence and a year of probation for their roles in a hazing incident last year at the Quaker Hill Firehouse. Affidavits that supported the warrants for the four arrests said the victim, a 14-year-old member of the department, was bound to a backboard, gagged with duct tape and shot with an air gun last September at the firehouse: <http://www.theday.com/article/20100428/NWS02/304289867/-1/NWS>

An after-shift drink at a fire house could lead to a captain on the South Bend (IN) Fire Department being suspended and demoted. On Wednesday, Fire Chief Howard Buchanon asked the Board of Public Safety to suspend Capt. Paul Chlebowski and accused him of having an alcoholic drink in a fire house after his shift ended. Chlebowski was in uniform, Buchanon wrote, and told Assistant Fire Chief Jim Lopez that others at the station were doing the same thing and getting away with it. "Captain Chlebowski's knowledge of this going on and not trying to correct or report the problem is not showing good leadership qualities," Buchanon wrote. Buchanon said Chlebowski violated two rules in the department's manual, including a prohibition against alcohol in any building or vehicle. He said Chlebowski's conduct was unbecoming of a firefighter: <http://www.southbendtribune.com/article/20100429/News01/4290324/-1/googleNews>

Charles Sluzenski IV was skunk-drunk when he decided to leave the private Pottstown (PA) club where he'd been drinking early Saturday. Although the walk home was just eight blocks, he got lost. That made him angry. So in a leap of logic that could make sense only to a booze-befuddled brain, he set some fires, law-enforcement officials said. When firefighters arrived to battle the blazes, Sluzenski bounded out of the predawn darkness, in full firefighter gear, and drunkenly implored the battalion chief: "Put me in, chief! I'm a volunteer firefighter!" Instead, Pottstown Fire Battalion Chief Chad Quinter called over a police officer, who arrested Sluzenski for public intoxication: http://www.philly.com/dailynews/local/20100430_D_A_Boozed-up_firefighter_created_work_for_self.html

A child's death prompts a D.C.F.D. EMS review: <http://www.firehouse.com/news/top-headlines/childs-death-prompts-dc-ems-review>

The City of Sparks (NV) is warning its residents, if you receive a call asking for your donations, be careful—it could be the latest telephone scam. An unidentified caller who claims to be with the Sparks Fire Department is asking for donations. The city says this is not a legitimate call: <http://www.ktvn.com/Global/story.asp?S=12403067>

A couple of bumper stickers created by the Daytona Beach (CA) city's firefighters' union that take a potshot at the countywide ambulance service ended up on police patrol cars — much to the consternation of top police brass:
<http://www.firerescue1.com/fire-ems/articles/813114-Fla-police-cruisers-tagged-with-firefighters-union-bumper-stickers/>

A former volunteer firefighter will make an initial court appearance today for allegedly stealing more than \$20,000 worth of gear from the Town of Sheboygan (WI) Fire Department and auctioning it on eBay. Items reported stolen included two sets of fire gear, 15 pagers, 13 defibrillator batteries, two defibrillators, a dash-mounted two-way radio, a set of vehicle emergency lights and a device that changes traffic lights to green as fire trucks approach, according to a criminal complaint filed Friday. The stolen equipment was valued at \$23,000:
<http://www.sheboyganpress.com/article/20100503/SHE0101/100503040/1973/SHE04/Firefighter-allegedly-stole--auctioned-fire-gear>

The flame-retardant gloves are off in Reading (MA), where the town's only female firefighter is suing a superior for sexual harassment over raunchy firehouse humor the married mother of two claims is positively incendiary. Pvt. Lisa Palermo, 43, states in her civil action that Lt. Richard Puopolo, 51, talked about how he "nicknamed his genitalia," simulated masturbation and oral sex with department equipment and taunted her with offensive jokes about sagging breasts and menstrual cycles. But counsel for the town and Puopolo - a 25-year veteran of the force who's already served a 59-day unpaid suspension for bawdy behavior - said Palermo "gives as good as she gets," and is no lady around the boys:
http://news.bostonherald.com/news/regional/view/20100503reading_firefighter_on_hot_seat_in_sex-harass_rap/srvc=home&position=also

When you call 911 you expect the people responding to help you. But one Carlisle (IA) man said the fire chief sent to help him last week only made things worse. The man said his diabetic wife was having convulsions around 12:15 a.m. because her blood glucose level dropped to a dangerously low level. When he called 911, two people from the Carlisle Fire Department responded. But, he said, one was slurring his words and couldn't even draw blood from his wife. "He starts squirting this gel into her mouth and she starts choking. She was gagging on it," the man said. That fire department member turned out to be the Carlisle Fire Chief Scott Burger, who is now on paid leave: <http://www.kcci.com/news/23440487/detail.html>

A Carlisle (PA) volunteer firefighter has been charged with taking a helmet from the West Pennsboro Fire Department and trying to sell it:
<http://www.firerescue1.com/fire-products/personal-protective-equipment-ppe/helmets/articles/818303-Pa-volunteer-charged-with-taking-fire-helmet/>

Forty people who took and failed the Portsmouth (VA) firefighter entrance exam will split \$145,000 in a settlement with the Justice Department over claims that the exam discriminated against black applicants. In U.S. District Court on Thursday, a judge signed off on an agreement to pay the 40 test-takers roughly \$1,400 to \$5,400 each, the equivalent of back pay based on when they took the exam. Those who took the test in 2004 will receive larger sums than those who took it in subsequent years:

<http://www.firerescue1.com/labor-issues/articles/813982-40-who-failed-Va-firefighter-exam-to-split-settlement/>

A longtime Lexington (MA) firefighter is accused of handing out false CPR certifications to rescue crews without the required training. The firefighter in question has been part of the Lexington Fire Department for at least 15 years. He remains on the job, but he has hired a lawyer. The firefighter has a business out of his Billerica home called "Life Saving Maneuvers," where he teaches courses on CPR and advanced life support. He allegedly has sold or given away the certificates without actually training anyone: <http://www1.whdh.com/news/articles/local/BO141429/>

The Hamilton (MA) firefighter accused of mishandling Muscular Dystrophy Association "Boot Drive" money has abruptly resigned, Team 5 Investigates reported Tuesday. The town planned to hold a disciplinary hearing for Deputy Chief Daniel Parsons Friday, but Parsons informed officials he would resign with plans to retire. Team 5 Investigates reported in February that firefighters initiated their investigation of Parsons when the MDA had not received \$2,300 collected in Hamilton. The charity eventually received that money. Hamilton Chief Philip Stevens Jr. said Parsons held onto the donations for an extended period of time. It is not known if he took any of the money before finally delivering it to the MDA:

<http://www.thebostonchannel.com/news/23453332/detail.html>

CBS Atlanta (GA) News is breaking an investigation into allegations of cheating within the Atlanta Fire Department's ranks. The city's Human Resources Department has now launched a formal investigation of their own, after Chief Investigative Reporter Wendy Saltzman started asking the Tough Questions. We've learned several fire fighters have stepped forward to complain to the Commissioner of Human Resources saying some of the fire department's top brass are behind this cheating scandal. They allegedly gave a copy of the lieutenants and captains promotional exam to a handful of fire fighters in advance. CBS Atlanta was first to learn of these damning allegations of cheating within the fire department. Several fire fighters anonymously contacted us outraged, alleging a copy of the promotions test was provided to some fire fighters in advance. They also claimed two high ranking officials are the ones that did it:

<http://www.firehouse.com/topics/training/atlanta-ffs-accused-cheating>

From Guilderland, New York (Albany County) comes the story of a volunteer firefighter responding in his personal vehicle to a house fire on Curry Road early this morning. Jordan Carleo-Evangelist reports at TimesUnion.com that Captain Thomas Fortunes of the Stanford Heights Fire Department struck and sped past Officer Don Jones who was directing traffic at the scene of the fire:

<http://statter911.com/2010/05/07/drinking-responding-two-stories-a-firefighter-strikes-a-cop-a-chief-tries-to-handle-an-ems-run/>

The firefighter who was shot in an incident on a Quincy (MA) street in December has lost his job. Joseph Fasano, 30, was fired Friday by Fire Chief John Grant for insubordination and conduct unbecoming a firefighter, Town Administrator Kevin Mearn said. Mearn said the insubordination charge stemmed from Fasano's failure to cooperate with an internal investigation. "He did not comply with requirements in the internal investigation," Mearn said. Following the shooting, town officials learned that Fasano had been arrested in Weymouth in 2007 for a domestic violence case involving his then-girlfriend. Police reports said Fasano threatened a police officer responding to the incident. Court records show that for nine months, Fasano failed to provide proof he attended weekly Alcoholics Anonymous meetings, as required under his probation. On the night of the shooting, Fasano did not answer a police officer's question about a bag of cocaine and cash found in the Jeep Cherokee he was driving:

<http://www.patriotledger.com/news/x2084233752/Shot-Milton-firefighter-loses-job>

Authorities in Bremer County (IA) have charged a volunteer Janesville firefighter with drunken driving after he allegedly rolled a fire truck while on duty:

<http://www.firefighternation.com/forum/topics/iowa-firefighter-charged-with>

John Brooks, Chicago (IL) Fire Department's beleaguered Fire Commissioner suddenly filed his retirement papers on Friday. Brooks has been on extended leave for several weeks following public disclosure of some inappropriate activity leading to a statement to the press that was embarrassing to both the department and especially the Mayor's office: <http://firegeezzer.com/2010/05/07/chicago-fire-commissioner-quits/>

A Queens (NY) man died from lack of oxygen as confused FDNY firefighters circled his house for 37 minutes because they couldn't find the address on their outdated map, The Post has learned. Tom Gallagher, 69, a retired stationary engineer for Fordham University, was in his bedroom at his Little Neck home on Van Nostrand Court just after 10 p.m. Monday when he lost consciousness, his distraught family said. While his son tried to revive him, firefighters rushing to his aid drove by his cul de sac several times without spotting the entrance. Their rig was not equipped with GPS or electronic maps -- which are not installed in any FDNY or EMS vehicles:

<http://www.firehouse.com/news/top-headlines/fdny-crew-lost-en-route-fatal-fire>

Two firefighters and a member of the ladies auxiliary have been accused of stealing from the Chestertown (NY) Fire Department:

<http://www.firehouse.com/topics/politics-and-law/ny-ffs-accused-theft-dept>

A paramedic is accused of stealing a painkiller used for heart attack victims from a Camas (WA) Fire Department ambulance and replacing it with saline solution. Bradley Allen was taken into custody last week on suspicion of tampering with and stealing narcotics. The arrest was spurred by a police investigation into missing vials of fentanyl citrate, a liquid drug that is 10 times stronger than morphine. The 22-year veteran was in charge of training paramedics and ordering medication for units:

<http://www.firerescue1.com/fire-ems/articles/818327-Wash-medic-accused-of-stealing-fire-department-drugs/>

Oregon's Bureau of Labor and Industries has filed charges accusing John Minnis, the former director of the state's Department of Public Safety Standards and Training, of sexual harassment and disability discrimination. The bureau investigated Minnis after allegations that he made repeated unwanted sexual advances on a female assistant, including using knowledge that she was an alcoholic who had blackouts to get her drunk and take advantage of her:

http://www.oregonlive.com/politics/index.ssf/2010/05/oregon_bureau_of_labor_says_io.html

Stockton (CA) City Hall and Stockton's firefighters union appeared closer to litigation Wednesday in their multimillion-dollar labor feud, the administration suggesting at a budget hearing that night that it could close a fire station or reduce staffing or pay:

http://www.recordnet.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20100513/A_NEWS/5130332/-1/a_news03

Two Fond du Lac (WI) Fire Department employees received lengthy unpaid suspensions, as well as other disciplinary sanctions as a result of their involvement in an incident last month that led to the resignation of two city police officers:

<http://www.fdlreporter.com/article/20100513/FON0101/5130481/1985>

A former Philadelphia (PA) firefighter and his son were ordered yesterday to stand trial in the "road-rage" beating death of a drunk pedestrian last month. Gerard M. Shaffer, 47, who retired before being fired from the Fire Department, and his son, Gerard Jr., 21, were each held on third-degree murder and conspiracy charges by Municipal Judge James DeLeon:

http://www.philly.com/dailynews/local/20100513_Father_son_to_stand_trial_in_road_rage_beating_death.html

A former Banks (OR) firefighter faces a second round of sex abuse charges after a 22-year-old woman says that Dale J. Evers of Banks abused her when she was 12:

http://www.forestgrovenewstimes.com/news/story.php?story_id=127372583595386400

Spokane (WA) firefighter Todd Chism has been placed on unpaid layoff status pending the resolution of felony charges that he assaulted Washington State Patrol troopers in Stevens County last month: <http://www.spokesman.com/blogs/sirens/tags/todd-chism/>

Positive Public Relations Items:

With communities and residents struggling to cope amid an ongoing recession, a New Hampshire firefighters union is drawing praise for its civic-mindedness. The Derry Professional Firefighters last week informed their town's budget officials that they are willing to forego their contractual cost-of-living raises next fiscal year to save jobs and keep fire stations open:

<http://www.unionleader.com/article.aspx?headline=Fire+pay+sacrifice+draws+praise&articleid=f368941d-7cfb-4ca8-8afd-b74c7d257f40>

The Reno (NV) Fight for Air Climb was as much about education as exertion. The second annual fundraiser for the state chapter of the American Lung Association involved at least 300 people who climbed the 36-floor Silver Legacy Resort Casino today as fast as they could. Upon completion, participants rode elevators back to the ground floor. Members of the firefighter teams were the first in the staggered start, climbing with about 60 pounds of gear, said Mary Ann McAuliffe, lung association Northern Nevada program manager:

<http://www.rgj.com/article/20100425/NEWS/100425018/1005/news02&oaso%3Dnews.rgj.com/breakingnews>

A Battalion Chief with the Los Angeles (CA) Fire Department shares their transition of “pranks” to “professionalism:

<http://www.firehouse.com/topic/leadership-and-command/la-shares-transition-pranks-professionalism>

Sun City West (AZ) Firefighters came to the rescue Wednesday with an offer that will shave about \$100,000 off the proposed 2010-11 Sun City West Fire District budget. Engineer Robbie Corcoran, representing firefighters at the second of two budget workshops, said the group determined that in light of the tight economic times a 5 percent performance-based "step raise," which was planned for about 60 percent of emergency personnel, would be forfeited. "We voted overwhelmingly to forgo the step raise. We are vested and believe in the Fire District and strive to maintain the best service delivery to our citizens," he said. "We believe the fire board, administration and field personnel have created a working bond together. Our goal to forgo this raise is to show the citizens that we are committed to their needs in this economic crisis and get the fire district through these rough economic times." "We're looking at long-term, not just what we're going to get today:"

<http://www.yourwestvalley.com/news/fire-15480-raise-personnel.html>

Milpitas (CA) Fire Department's firefighters' union voted last week to defer salary increases that city leaders say will help close a \$10.6-million general fund budget gap next year and prevent cuts to city employee positions and the programs and services that residents receive: http://www.mercurynews.com/ci_14983632?nclick_check=1

A Valley community came together Sunday to raise money for a Phoenix (AZ) firefighter who is recovering in the hospital after a deadly motorcycle crash. Captain Ernie Lizarraga was one of the riders injured after a semi truck slammed into eight motorcyclists on March 23rd, killing four of them. He is still in the hospital in serious condition. His daughter says he is on the road to recovery, but is expected to continue treatment in the hospital for the next several months:

<http://www.abc15.com/content/entertainment/localevents/story/Thousands-join-to-raise-money-for-firefighter/3WbkqbHNTE2hL1QykmITw.csp>

I may not look like it today. I am still Stella Thurkill the Reporter. But I'm also putting on another hat -- a Firefighter's hat -- a West Jordan (UT) Fire Department Firefighters Hat. I'm joining City Leaders, State Leaders and other people in the community -- and we are going to find out what it's like to be a Firefighter for a day. Take a look:

http://connect2utah.com/news-story?nxd_id=86005

Citing the safety of the public and its employees, the Sparks (NV) Fire Department has tentatively agreed to take permanent pay cuts as part of the city's sweeping reductions to close its budget gap. Sparks firefighter's union president Kevin Cavanagh said Thursday afternoon that the agreement to back down from prior resistance to the pay cuts was largely motivated by a desire to keep firefighter staffing levels higher for the sake of both residents and firefighting personnel. "It is one of those things where the cuts are so deep they affect the safety of the community and the safety of our firefighters," Cavanagh said. "They were so deep they're not worth it."

http://dailysparkstribune.com/pages/full_story/push?article-Firefighters+agree+to+permanent+cuts-+avoid+layoffs+%20&id=7342380&instance=home_news_1st_left

Tualatin Valley (OR) Fire & Rescue honored 66 firefighters and staff members Saturday for their efforts in achieving excellent responses to emergencies, their day-to-day service and their volunteering around the globe. The ceremony, known as the Meritorious Awards Program, was held at the Stafford Woods Conference Center in Wilsonville:

http://www.oregonlive.com/washingtoncounty/index.ssf/2010/05/tualatin_valley_fire_rescue_h_o.html

Training & Safety Related Items:

To view the latest edition of the California Office of the State Fire Marshal's monthly report, which includes an update from California State Fire Training, go to:

<http://osfm.fire.ca.gov/fromthechief/pdf/sfmreportmay10.pdf>

Inadequate size-up and uncoordinated tactical operations were key contributing factors in the deaths of two Texas firefighters in a fire fueled by winds, investigators found. Firefighters also failed to react appropriately to deteriorating conditions, according to a NIOSH fatality investigation report released Monday. Houston Fire Department Captain James Harlow and Probationary Firefighter Damien Hobbs died April 12 last year at the wind-driven residential structure fire:

<http://www.firerescue1.com/firefighter-safety/articles/809827-Report-Inadequate-size-up-high-winds-key-factors-in-Houston-LODDs/>

Federal authorities say Massachusetts should enact laws that require firefighters to wear seat belts and be tested on air brake operation before they are allowed to drive firetrucks, according to a new federal report on the investigation of the fatal firetruck crash in Boston last year. The investigation concluded that a fire lieutenant who was killed and two firefighters who were injured were not wearing seat belts when the ladder truck they were riding in lost brake pressure, careered down a steep hill, and crashed into an apartment building, according to the report by the Firefighter Fatality Investigation and Prevention Program of the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health. The driver was also not adequately trained on how air brakes work:

http://www.boston.com/news/local/massachusetts/articles/2010/04/21/us_urges_safety_changes_for_boston_firetrucks/

Alta Bates Summit Medical Center and the Oakland (CA) police and fire departments have been fined more than \$135,000 for failing to limit emergency workers' exposure to bacterial meningitis:

<http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2010/04/20/BAR71D1FT0.DTL&type=newsbayarea>

A Ventura County (CA) Firefighter loses his eye in a fireground injury due to ammunition exploding: <http://cbs2.com/local/Firefighter.Injured.In.2.1646511.html>

Experts question amount of state firefighter training in Wisconsin:

<http://www.stevenspointjournal.com/article/20100427/SPJ0101/4270562/Experts-question-amount-of-state-firefighter-training>

A lack of communications with commanders and tactical decisions that now seem flawed probably contributed to the deaths of two Los Angeles County (CA) firefighters killed while trying to defend their mountaintop camp during last summer's huge Station blaze, a multiagency inquiry has found. In a report to the Board of Supervisors, the Los Angeles County Fire Department also cites a "perfect storm" of erratic winds and weather-warping heat that drove the flames through Camp 16, a remote outpost in the Angeles National Forest that had been out of touch with commanders managing the Station fire response:

<http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-station-fire-20100430%2C0%2C6831802.story>

Monrovia (CA) Fire department administrators and members of the firefighters' union are again clashing over a breathing device the rank and file believes is unsafe. Firefighters in January began training with the new SCBA units - but the results were discouraging, union officials said. "These units are already having safety issues," said Monrovia Firefighters President Dave Rapp. "If the firefighters aren't safe, then how can we possibly protect the public?" Monrovia bought the equipment in May 2009 along with 25 other departments in Los Angeles County, as part of a federal program designed to update safety equipment countywide. The union has opposed the purchase ever since. But fire Chief Christopher Donovan insists the equipment, made by Sperian Fire, is perfectly safe and is already in use at other local departments:

http://www.sgvtribune.com/news/ci_14986493

Distraught over the death of his grandmother, a Yuba City (CA) man drove a car toward firefighters and a deputy early today, a Sutter County Sheriff's Department official said. Randeep Singh Rai, 23, was arrested on suspicion of assault with a deadly weapon and was being held without bail in Sutter County Jail:

<http://www.appeal-democrat.com/news/firefighters-94555-rai-car.html>

A Santa Fe Springs (CA) firefighter was in serious but stable condition Thursday afternoon after he was struck by a truck while collecting charity donations near a street corner, officials said. The firefighter was collecting money for a "Fill the Boot" fundraiser, which is conducted by fire departments to raise money for muscular dystrophy patients, said Janet Ortiz, a spokeswoman for the Santa Fe Springs Department of Fire-Rescue:

<http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/lanow/2010/05/santa-fe-springs-firefighter.html>

A 2011 requirement for fire sprinklers in new homes will boost safety for families, firefighters: http://www.timesheraldonline.com/ci_15053399?source=most_emailed

As Gilbert (AZ) fire administrators struggled to adjust to the department's shrinking budget last fiscal year, response times for the town's fire and medical personnel slowly dropped. While the drop in how long it takes to respond to a fire or medical incident is generally great news for any fire department, in Gilbert, the decrease in response times came at a cost, said interim Fire Chief Jim Jobusch. "We have sacrificed our training this year to improve our response levels," Jobusch said. Much of that practice isn't getting done because the department cannot afford to pay overtime for off-duty firefighters and certified medical personnel to respond to calls while other crews are training:

<http://www.azcentral.com/news/articles/2010/05/11/20100511gilbert-fire-services.html>

The findings of a city audit shows there was no intent by Tulsa (OK) firefighters to defraud the city through the inaccurate reporting of their continuing emergency medical training. "I believe the report satisfactorily addresses the concerns of the council," said City Auditor Preston Doerflinger. "It is my hope that this report objectively resolves the issue for all parties concerned." Fire Chief Allen LaCroix said that overall he was pleased with the audit findings. "I think, like we always said and the audit shows, that the problem was shoddy record-keeping," he said:

http://www.tulsaworld.com/news/article.aspx?subjectid=334&articleid=20100510_11_A1_Tefnig482883

General Fire Service Related Items:

A federal judge has thrown out a lawsuit from a New Haven (CT) city firefighter who was seeking promotion from a 2003 civil service process that he contends discriminated against African American candidates:

<http://www.firehouse.com/news/top-headlines/black-new-haven-ffs-lawsuit-tossed>

In a bow to gender equity, the California Assembly voted 60-0 this week to replace the word "fireman" with "firefighter" in a relatively obscure section of state law:

<http://www.sacbee.com/static/weblogs/capitolalertlatest/2010/05/assembly-votes.html>

More than a decade after voting 3-2 to terminate a merger with the Fremont Fire Department and to re-establish its own department, the Union City (CA) City Council this week cast another 3-2 vote — this time to consolidate with the Alameda County Fire Department. The contract, expected to take effect July 1, states that Alameda County Fire will maintain the current service level, and that all four fire stations in Union City will remain open: http://www.insidebayarea.com/ci_14931226

A man angry about a noisy party opened fire on his Huffman-area neighbors early Sunday, killing a teacher, critically injuring a Houston (TX) fire captain and wounding a third man, police officers said:

<http://www.firefighternation.com/forum/topics/houston-firefighter-in-1>

If it happens, the merger of the Springfield and Eugene fire departments would create the third-largest fire department in the State of Oregon:

<http://www.kmtr.com/news/local/story/Chiefs-Eugene-Springfield-fire-merger-should-go/SXgmxPDtU24wFVFEMzyfA.csp>

Palo Alto (CA) has fired a consultant midway through a controversial study of its fire department, The Daily News has learned. The city will end its \$55,000 contract with Emergency Services Consulting International and solicit new bids on a study that looks at response times, staffing levels and overtime. The decision, confirmed Tuesday by Fire Chief Nick Marinaro, comes after city council members found out last week the consulting firm chosen for the study had never recommended layoffs. Several city leaders were banking on the study to point the way to cutbacks as they struggles to close an \$8.3 million budget gap:

http://www.santacruzsentinel.com/nationalbreaking/ci_14973601

The San Diego (CA) Fire-Rescue Department is making a slight change to its brownout plans to give two local areas a better chance of fighting fires. Two "quints," a hybrid of a fire engine and a fire truck, will be moved by the end of May to new stations. One quint will move from Station 44 in Mira Mesa to Station 35 in University City, and the other quint will go from Station 46 in Santaluz to Station 21 in Pacific Beach:

<http://www.10news.com/news/23298172/detail.html>

The Newark (CA) Fire Department will officially become a part of the Alameda County Fire Department on Saturday, and the public is invited to an event to celebrate the transition as well as the 100th anniversary of fire service in Newark. City officials voted earlier this year to contract with the countywide agency for fire services after a study showed that the city needed to provide additional service to its residents. The move is projected to save the cash-strapped city about \$500,000 a year:

http://www.insidebayarea.com/ci_14984588

Two Halifax (Canada) firefighters can now pursue libel suits after their lawyer received the names of anonymous commentators who criticized them on the website of a weekly newspaper. Michelle Awad, the attorney for Halifax fire chief Bill Mosher and deputy chief Stephen Thurber, said Monday she has the information she needs to find and sue the commentators from the Coast newspaper's website. "We have information that identifies individuals. So it's no longer an anonymous person or an email address that doesn't necessarily specify the person's name," she said:

<http://www.firefighternation.com/forum/topics/canadian-firefighters-pursue>

Fed up with the state's plan to charge Riverside County \$2 million more next year for fire protection and frustrated by a lack of progress in talks to reverse the increase, the county Board of Supervisors voted unanimously Tuesday to explore creating an independent firefighting agency and possibly breaking away from CalFire. For decades, the county has contracted with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, also known as CalFire, for fire service. And the county is facing the prospect of paying \$134 million next year, a total that includes a \$14 million administrative fee. This year, the county paid a \$12 million fee:

http://www.nctimes.com/news/local/swcounty/article_30fc45f3-17a9-5604-8041-e018d61f0da5.html

One hundred twenty-three Clark County (NV) employees live outside its borders. Most reside within driving distance of their jobs, in Arizona and Utah, but others live as far away as San Francisco, Carson City and Texas. Now, as county officials scrutinize their payroll in light of a looming budget shortfall, the out-of-county employees have caught the eye of at least one commissioner who wants to require all county employees to live here. Commissioner Steve Sisolak says government employees should have a stake in the community that employs them for financial and less tangible reasons. To that end, he will talk about stricter residency requirements for the county's 11,000 employees during today's County Commission meeting. "I don't see how they really develop a sense of community, how they feel part of the community when they don't live here," he said. "We need people who are investing their lives in the county." Also, with the county struggling to maintain services, the county could gain a bit more property tax revenue by forcing employees to move here, he said: <http://www.lasvegassun.com/news/2010/may/04/move-here-or-find-other-work/>

A Pinellas County (FL) man has been charged with stealing the helmet of a firefighter who responded to help his friend. The sheriff's office reports that Seminole Fire Rescue firefighters responded to treat an ill person Sunday morning. While rescue workers were inside the home treating the sick person, authorities say 21-year-old Christopher James Bergling got into the unlocked cab of the fire truck and took the helmet. The firefighter noticed that his helmet, worth about \$500, was missing several hours later: <http://statter911.com/2010/05/05/gratitude-florida-firefighters-help-man-mans-friend-helps-himself-to-firefighters-helmet/>

Legislation to allow St. Louis firefighters to live outside the city is heading to Gov. Jay Nixon. Both chambers of the Missouri Legislature overwhelmingly passed the bill Wednesday, but that may not be the end of the matter: St. Louis leaders insist that only the city can change the residency requirements. If the bill does become law, it would allow city firefighters who have been in the department for at least seven years to live outside the city so long as they are within an hour of their home fire station: <http://www.stltoday.com/stltoday/news/stories.nsf/politics/story/77A2CA7DB5398BEF8625771B00113C7D?OpenDocument>

Tualatin Valley (OR) Fire & Rescue is ready to roll out a new fleet of emergency response vehicles. Four specially equipped Toyota FJ Cruisers will hit the road Friday to respond to certain medical calls and emergency situations that don't require a traditional fire engine and four-person crew: http://www.tualatintimes.com/news/story.php?story_id=127311063335855900

San Mateo (CA) City officials have submitted plans to take over the San Carlos Fire Department. The five-page proposal from San Mateo Fire Chief Dan Belville, released late Friday, says the city could operate fire services in San Carlos for \$5.3 million a year. San Mateo joins Cal Fire as the two agencies that have submitted proposals since San Carlos officials said they were likely to outsource fire services, along with the police department, to deal with budget woes: http://www.mercurynews.com/ci_15044499?nclick_check=1

A new Apple iPhone application will put users in touch with the San Ramon (CA) Valley Fire Protection District, and has given some college students a taste of what it's like to work in the real world. Students at Northern Kentucky University developed the app, which will be available this summer. It will allow users to view active incidents and the response status of emergency vehicles dispatched to a call, and will even have an interactive map pinpointing the incidents. Users can also listen to live radio traffic and select what types of incidents they want to receive, such as notices of structure fires or vehicle accidents: http://www.mercurynews.com/ci_15044225

For more than two years, **Green Bay's (WI)** fire chief has been not a person, but a corporation: www.greenbaypressgazette.com/article/20100511/GPG0101/5110575/1978

Firefighters on the Monterey (CA) Peninsula are calling the Pacific Grove City Council's vote a big step towards the right direction. The city just became the first to vote and consider a sub-regional fire agency. "Clearly they didn't make a legal commitment, but they directed us to pursue the JPA and continue the discussions to come back to them with more detail than we were able to tonight in terms of how best to proceed," said Pacific Grove City Manager Thomas Frutchet. Monterey and Pacific Grove already share fire services. Fire Chief Sam Mazza told me the 2008 merger reduced costs and improved services in both towns. "From my 35 years in the fire services this has been the most seamless, successful merging of two fire departments that I've ever witnessed. We have an extraordinary fire department that works very well together," said Monterey/Pacific Grove Fire Chief Sam Mazza. Now, they're talking about including Carmel and Seaside to the group. Pacific Grove City Manager Thomas Frutchet said he's proud his city is the first to approve the plan:

<http://www.kionrightnow.com/Global/story.asp?S=12473831>

Should three fire departments in the Wenatchee (WA) area become one, new entity? That's the question fire officials in Wenatchee, Chelan County Fire District 1 and Douglas County Fire District 2 have been asking in recent months. Officials from all three agencies said this week that such a merger could reduce duplication of services and improve efficiencies:

<http://www.wenatcheeworld.com/news/2010/may/13/fire-officials-talking-merger-possibilities/>

Tualatin Valley (OR) Fire & Rescue is tailoring its emergency responses to what's needed, and that may mean a medic car instead of a Big Red Truck:

http://www.oregonlive.com/environment/index.ssf/2010/05/post_12.html

Want to be a firefighter? Know your math - The high school seniors took turns gripping a firefighting hose Thursday while trying to apply the algebra equations they'd just learned to how much pressure spouted from the nozzle. It was a chance for Pacific High students to see real world applications for the math they're taught in the classroom. San Bernardino City (CA) Fire Engineer Tom Rubio presented to four class periods, explaining how firefighters use math everyday to determine how much water pressure to use based on variables like how long the hose is:

http://www.sgvtribune.com/california/ci_15081221

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

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

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

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

***** 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@aol.com 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.
- If you know of someone who wants to receive this newsletter (as well as other updates) email me at sprziborowski@aol.com and I will place them on the mailing list.
- If you want to take your name off of the mailing list, just send me an email at sprziborowski@aol.com and in the subject heading, and type in "unsubscribe from mailing list" and I will remove your name.
- 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 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.